



SPORTS CLASH OVER NEW PITCH

Report by David Callaghan

COUNCIL bosses have defended their decision to force hockey teams out of Dudley's The Dell Stadium because football is more popular.

Dudley Council has announced plans for a £500,000 synthetic 3G floodlit football pitch at the Brockmoor stadium, with a submission going to the Football Foundation.

It will see Dudley Ladies Hockey Club and Kingswinford Hockey Club, who have used The Dell for more than 30 years, looking for a new base as the 3G pitch is not suitable for hockey. The 3G pitch is not permitted for league use by the All England Hockey Association.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said football clubs use The Dell nearly seven times more than hockey clubs throughout the week.

"Hockey clubs train on the site for three hours a week and play one or two games each Saturday, while football clubs use the existing facilities for over 20 hours each week," he said.

"This is a difficult situation where we have to balance the need for investing in the site in sports which are most popular there, and helping sports teams who may be affected by the proposal.

"We are continuing to work with the local hockey clubs to make sure they are catered for elsewhere in the borough.

"We want to take every opportunity to invest in our sports facilities wherever possible, in line with our commitment to help people lead happy and healthy lives.

Invest

"This proposal will invest in a sport which is very popular at the Dell Stadium by improving the playing surface which will attract significantly more clubs.

He added: "The new facility would increase levels of use significantly, as both training and matches for all age groups can be accommodated on the third generation pitch and the likelihood of postponement of games is limited."

But Dudley Ladies Hockey Club chairman Sharon Mason said the club felt 'very let down' by the council's decision, and is planning to hold further meetings with the council and England Hockey, hockey's governing body.

She said: "We are angry that they want to pull up the pitch and jeopardise the future of two clubs.

"Dudley Ladies has been going 35 years and had a successful hockey recruitment drive in September which was very successful.

"I myself have been playing 26 years for the club and just hope that with support we can find a suitable pitch to relocate to."

Council chiefs have said there are potential alternative sites for the hockey teams, some as little as three miles away from the stadium.

T-SHIRTS HONOUR FOOTBALL LEGEND DUNCAN



Black Country T-Shirts staff member Phil Carter from Netherton models the shirt in honour of Duncan Edwards, who died 58 years ago this month

A T-SHIRT has been made to mark the anniversary of the death of Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards, nearly 60 years after the Munich air crash.

Black Country T-Shirts have created the tribute to the Dudley-born England and Manchester United star, bearing a quote from United's manager Matt Busby describing him as 'the most complete footballer in Britain, possibly the world'.

Priory Estate-raised Edwards died on February 21, 1958, 15 days after the Munich air disaster on February 6. The accident during

take off by a plane containing the famous Busby Babes had seen seven of Edwards' team mates killed, as were three club officials, eight journalists, two members of the air crew and two other passengers.

The plane crashed on its third attempt to take off at Munich-Riem Airport, as the club was returning from a European Cup match against Red Star Belgrade. The jet had stopped to refuel but it had been snowing in Munich and the plane over-shot the runway and burst into flames after hitting buildings.

Most of the victims died instantly, but

21-year-old Edwards battled his injuries for more than a fortnight before dying. Matt Busby, who was later knighted, was severely injured but went on to rebuild the team and bring it great success in the 1960s.

Founder of Black Country T Shirts Stephen Pitts said: "Having recently moved to Dudley, we are very close to the Duncan Edwards memorial statue. With the anniversary of the crash and his subsequent death on February 21, we thought it would be fitting to make something to keep him in mind. I think it is a great tribute for a great footballer."

ACCIDENT

Injured rider, 16, is named by police

POLICE have named a teenage moped rider left in a critical condition after a traffic accident in Rowley Regis.

Declan Osborne, aged 16, was knocked over by a Honda Civic in Macmillan Road, on January 30. The driver left the scene before police arrived. A 24-year-old man was arrested last week and released on bail until March 30.

Declan's family said in a statement: "We are devastated about what has happened. We would like to thank the people who helped Declan." Anyone with information should call West Midlands Police on 101.

PLANNING

Social club is saved from the bulldozers

A SOCIAL club has survived an attempt from a neighbouring supermarket to knock it down so it can extend its car park.

Halesowen Members Club had been a target for Lidl bosses who want to create more parking spaces for its Hagley Road store, which opened on a former garage site in 2008.

But Lidl has been knocked back by Dudley Council planners over concern that it could cause traffic problems on the busy Hagley Road.

HOMES

Petition opposes housing scheme

MORE than 40 people have signed a petition against homes being built on the former Coseley Baths site.

Plans for a development comprising 24 homes have been lodged for the Pear Tree Lane site but people living nearby have raised a raft of complaints. These include concerns that the site is too small for the amount of houses that are proposed and the potential for a loss of light and privacy to existing homes.

A petition with 42 signatures has been handed in to Dudley Council. Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden has also written to the authority.

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TAKE A PEAKY AT MUSEUM



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Time is running out for Hippodrome

CAMPAIGNERS have vowed to do what they can to convince council chiefs a business plan to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozer is viable. It comes after council chiefs rejected the latest scheme aimed at saving the Castle Hill venue.

A new steering group had been set up with members from the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group plus new supporters and industry experts. The group has been given to the end of February to address the council's concerns.

Dudley Council said it will continue to push ahead with plans to knock down the building and replace it with a public square, with a planning application due to be submitted in the summer.

The authority rejected the latest business plan following advice from consultants who believed that it remained 'unviable' after it was found to lack detail on market analysis, funding plans and operational issues such as staffing levels.

A statement from the steering group said: "It is good to see that the council have kept the door open for us to revise the business plan." But Friends supporter Gaz Sawers, who performs under the name Black Country Gaz, says he was disappointed at the council's 'negative' stance.

"What is really disappointing to me is that although the council have given the group more time they have still stated that they are going to be

bulldozing it," he said. "That is really negative and doesn't help. Dudley Council is just pulling the curtains down on Dudley's music and entertainment heritage."

Last year the council sought alternative plans for the site, with a deadline by the end of the year. Despite several early expressions of interest, only one business plan was received to run the venue. But council officials say an independent consultant found 'significant gaps in the information provided'.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "My door will continue to be open for any viable suggestions."

Mother who left children alone in flat is released

A MOTHER who was jailed after leaving her two young children home alone while she went to work will be released after winning an appeal.

The 24-year-old, from Dudley who cannot be named for legal reasons, left the children alone in her flat for eight hours.

When the alarm was raised, they were found in a state of 'chaos', the Court of Appeal heard. A three-year-old was naked and covered in paint, while his one-year-old sister did not have a nappy and had no access to milk.

The mother said she had expected a friend to look after the kids, but had been let down and had to leave them.

She pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to two counts of child cruelty and was jailed for 24 weeks in December. However, after an appeal by her lawyers, her sentence was reduced to 16 weeks, meaning she was due for release last week.

Medical practice is put into special measures

A MEDICAL practice in Sedgley has been placed into special measures and ordered to improve following an inspection.

Bath Street Medical Practice has been rated as inadequate by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The health watchdog has demanded improvements over the next six months or warned the practice could be shut down.

Minor surgery was immediately stopped at Bath Street, which has around 2,700 patients, after the CQC findings.

The manager of the medical practice, who did not want to be named, said it had 'immediately' taken action to address the inspector's concerns.

An initial inspection in November uncovered a 'number of cases' where a GP had not followed the correct guidelines regarding whether suspected melanoma cases should be referred to a specialist. Inspectors then returned unannounced two days later to carry out a more detailed review of minor surgeries.

Burnham listens to pensioners



Shadow Home Secretary Andy Burnham MP meets Upper Gornal pensioners during the visit by Labour politicians

Information

Experts found entries made on the clinical system by the GP in question were not always clear and that the GP's record keeping did not contain sufficient information to support some of the decisions made in consultations and when performing minor surgery.

The CQC also found errors had also been made around medication and dosage and that many of these errors were not recorded.

'Significant events' at the practice also went unrecorded, the report said, including when the surgery was left without electricity for hours after a power cut.

However, the surgery was rated as 'good' in terms of how caring it was.

Bosses at the surgery said the practice's overall rating was dragged down by the issues over surgery regulations and insisted action had been taken to improve in that area.

The practice manager said in a statement: "The quality and standard of care that we provide to patients is important to us. We are disappointed with the report's overall findings and in response to the inspection we immediately took action to address the inspector's concerns."

DUDLEY North Labour MP Ian Austin brought his party's big guns to the Black Country as the party launched a nationwide tour looking at its policy on immigration.

Shadow Home Secretary Andy Burnham and Shadow Immigration Minister Keir Starmer were at the Upper Gornal Pensioners Club to listen to concerns over the impact of immigration.

Mr Burnham said it was part of a plan to win back voters that the party had 'failed to convince'.

"We will not succeed in doing that by denying the effect that migration has had on some communities," he said. "EU free movement is, overall, beneficial to our society and economy. But it has a different input on different places."

Pressure

"In some of our more deprived areas, it has put pressure on public services and undermined jobs and wages. If politicians don't understand and acknowledge that,

then we will continue to look out of touch."

The debate looked at who should be allowed to come to the UK, whether stronger border controls were needed, the impact of immigration on local workers and tackling the refugee crisis.

Mr Austin said: "We know from the last election that people don't trust us on the economy, welfare or immigration. This is about us listening to their concerns to regain that trust."

Housing drop-in sessions launch

A HOUSING support drop-in session has been launched at Kates Hill following success in other Dudley borough areas.

Dudley Council's housing services provides a free housing support drop-in service, which is available to anyone who needs assistance to maintain their independence. Issues can range from budgeting to benefits.

The new session is being held every Monday at 13 Cromwell Street, Kates Hill, from 10am until noon.

Details of other sessions held throughout the borough are available at www.dudley.gov.uk or by calling (01384) 812504.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "We ensure as many residents have access to the free service as possible."

Applications for mortgages are up

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society has revealed that processed mortgage applications increased by 14 per cent last year.

They were up to £71.7 million for 2015 with mortgage completions up three per cent to more than £52m.

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Senior Muslim cleric will talk at UKIP conference

UKIP'S inaugural West Midlands party conference will feature a speech by a Muslim cleric.

Aqeel Ahmad, an imam at the Bai-tul Ghafoor Mosque in Halesowen, will talk on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association – AMA – at the event in Wolverhampton.

The event at Dunstall Park racecourse on February 20 will also feature UKIP party leader Nigel Farage, who is set to lay out the case for Britain leaving the EU at a Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy group meeting following the conference.

The party's national disability spokesperson Councillor Star Anderton and Nathan Garrbitt of LGBT UKIP will also deliver presentations.

West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge said the range of speakers was 'one in the eye' for anyone accusing the party of bigotry.

"We are looking closely at what UKIP should stand for and inclusiveness is certainly something that we want to push," added Mr Etheridge, who is also set to deliver a conference speech.

"As a party we want to highlight the proud traditions of our region and show that there is no place for bigotry and intolerance under our banner. UKIP has an inclusive side that a lot of people probably don't recognise."

Wasin Shah, outreach coordinator for the West Birmingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, said the group would use the conference to promote the 'true teaching' of Islam as part of its campaign against extremism.

Revived pub has won two awards

A HALESOWEN pub that once faced being converted into a supermarket is celebrating a double award.

The Swan in Long Lane has been voted the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale's pub of the year.

Members have also voted it the area's cider pub of the year.

The pub was saved by Black Country Ales after thousands of residents and firms signed petitions during two campaigns to keep it open.

The Pensnett-based pub company restored the pub after buying it and re-opened it in September 2013. New licensees Paul Hicks and Liz Rogers took over The Swan last year.

The pub is holding a beer festival from April 21 to 24.

Ballroom dances at college hall

BALLROOM dancing sessions will take place on this and next Saturday at Dudley College's Broadway campus, in the college's Great Hall from 8pm to 11.30pm. Call Fiona Bennett on (01384) 249451 for details.

Aldi supermarket given the thumbs up

SUPERMARKET giant Aldi will press ahead with plans to build a new shop in Lye, creating 80 jobs, after councillors gave the scheme the green light.

The supermarket will be built on the former site of the well-known Bronx works in Dudley Road. Councillors approved the plans, which also include a car park with 120 spaces, after receiving more than 100 letters of support from residents.

At a meeting Councillor David Vickers described the new supermarket as a 'great facility for Lye'.

While Councillor Keiran Casey said: "This land needs to be refurbished.

"And the proposals have had a lot of support from local people as well as the backing of Dudley council.

"In my opinion, it is only bringing positives to

Lye, in the fact that a good number of jobs are being created and as a supermarket in the area, it will boost the economy."

Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif has also welcomed the support for the supermarket and said he hopes it can be a 'catalyst for the town.'

Thriving

He said: "Lye has been looking for a major store to come in for a number of years. This is a piece of land that was not going to be used for much else.

"It also does not affect Lye High Street which we want to ensure is kept thriving.

The council had received objections to the store

over traffic and access for neighbouring businesses. Also, more than 80 people turned out to view the multi-million pound plans at a consultation event in April last year.

The plans went on display for members of the public at Lye Town Football Club on Stourbridge Road. Feedback was then used by the developer to submit a planning application.

Aldi is soon starting work on creating a supermarket on the site of the former King Arthur Pub, off Birmingham New Road, in Dudley.

Plans have also been revealed by the firm for a store to be built in Great Barr, which would create around 40 jobs.

£31m music institute is proposed for Waterfront

PLANS for a £31 million music college at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, creating more than 130 jobs, have been unveiled.

The campus could open its doors to students as early as September 2017 if a feasibility study proves successful.

If given approval, the ground-breaking not-for-profit institute, which has been backed by the music industry, will offer places for around 600 degree and 115 postgraduate students.

The campus would include a lecture theatre, classrooms, practise rooms, a library, recording studios, an independent radio station, a sound and light control room, a live music venue, a retail outlet, bar and student accommodation.

Dudley Council has backed the project in the hope it will kick-start the regeneration of the whole Waterfront area.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is a very exciting development for Dudley and I am delighted the music institute have chosen to invest in Brierley Hill and create a state-of-the-art venue for some of the country's top music students.

"This will have a huge positive impact on the local economy and will bring hundreds of students to the area."

Investment

The project is looking for funding from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, with the rest of the money from private investment. Bosses say discussions are still ongoing as to which of the existing Waterfront buildings could be used.

In addition to its degree students, the institute would look to forge close links with community groups, further education providers and charities.

As a not-for-profit venture, any money made would be reinvested back into the institute.

More than 130 jobs are expected to be created by the project, which is being led by a consortium of music industry experts, educators and employers.

David Barnard, previously director of education at Roland UK, is tasked with leading the institute as its principal and chief executive officer.

He said: "Our long-term vision is to create a music village or campus, with the institute at its heart, driving innovation, enterprise and research that will be recognised globally."

First look at new flamingo home



An artist's impression of the new Flamingo Falls exhibit, one of several projects at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo has revealed the first look at its new Flamingo Falls exhibit – one of three enclosures in line for a revamp costing £200,000.

The existing flamingo enclosure is being enhanced to create a much bigger pool and a larger indoor area with a viewing area.

Bosses at the Castle Hill attraction have also revealed details of major work to develop the home for its breeding group of gelada

baboons. The third project is to create an interactive walk-through exhibit where visitors can feed dozens of yellow-backed chattering lorikeets, birds which are vulnerable in the wild.

Work is now under way on Flamingo Falls – the largest of the three enclosures being revamped – and it is expected to open by Easter. A sign has been designed by Dudley Zoo's new graphic designer, Rachel Lane.

During the first month of 2016, 4,504 visitors came through the turnstiles of the 40-acre site – 189 more than last year and 542 up on 2013. Bosses said they were the best January figures for five years.

The £40,000 scheme to extend the baboon enclosure includes transforming a former shop into a walk-in viewing area. The paddock, next to the famous chair lift, will be extended up the bank to provide more grazing area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New measures for better road safety

A CAMPAIGNER in Sedgley has secured funding from Dudley Council for road safety improvements on the Northway.

Damian Corfield has worked with Northway Action Group for Road for Road Safety, who have previously raised concerns about accidents on the road.

The funding will be used to install measures near Alder Coppice School, which will include flashing speed signs, road markings and a new crossing, as well as the creation of a new Speedwatch group.

MP now based in town centre office

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has moved into a new constituency office in the town centre.

Mr Austin is now based at St James' House on Trinity Road, run by Flame Trust as a space for charities and community organisations. The Labour MP was forced to move as his former base, Turner House on Wren's Nest Road, is to be demolished by Dudley Council.

He said: "Moving my office to the town centre will make it even easier for local people to keep in touch and help me keep working to revive Dudley's high street."

Swap shop to share and recycle

A SWAP shop for recycling and sharing will be taking place in Stourbridge on Saturday.

It will be held at Friends Meeting House on February 13 and will run from 3 to 5pm, organised by community group Transition Stourbridge.

Unwanted items can be brought to be swapped, shared and reused.

For more information about the swap shop or group, visit transitions tourbridge.co.uk or call (01384) 351414.

Driver and passenger hurt as van hits tree

TWO men were taken to hospital after a van crashed into a tree near Hagley last week.

Emergency crews were called to the A456 near the Badgers Sett pub after a van had been involved in a collision with a car and hit a tree shortly after 8am on February 3.

The male driver suffered a head injury while a teenage passenger suffered minor injuries. West Midlands Ambulance Service said. The driver of the other car was not injured.

Archive coffee morning

THE Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Centre has a fundraising coffee morning planned for later this month.

It is being held at the centre in Tipton Road on Saturday, February 20, from 11am to 2pm and will also include craft stalls.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



If you believe some reports, viewers were shocked at the naked soldiers in the lake-bathing scene in War & Peace (BBC1). I suspect the biggest shock was the effect of freezing cold water on the male equipment. It can seriously shrivel your tolstoyes.

I RAISED this question a few days ago: how many of today's 21-year-old graduates could pass the 11-plus? A reader obligingly digs out an 11-plus maths paper from the 1950s with the question: "Subtract two-thirds of 834 from 23 times 185". Moving swiftly on . . .

WRITER Jane Shilling laments the rise of IKEA-type minimalism and the demise of brown furniture like her sturdy old wardrobe with labels for "costumes" and "blouses." I was suddenly reminded of the brown wardrobe my parents bought when I was about six. The labelled compartments included one marked "sundries." For more years than I feel comfortable to admit, I assumed these were clothes that could be dried in the sun.

ANYONE surprised at the news that some of Britain's biggest companies, including Sainsbury's, Travis Perkins and the Football Association, have shared £5 million of taxpayers' money in order to install energy-saving bulbs? Me neither. In the same way, those big, flashy electric 4x4 vehicles, eagerly snapped up by the wealthy, are subsidised by taxpayers. As always, it's the rich wot gets the pleasure and the poor wot gets the blame.



TERRY Wogan, the most famous Irishman in Britain, was broadcasting throughout the 30 years of the so-called Troubles when bombs and bullets claimed 3,000 lives.

When things got really nasty, notably after the 1974 Birmingham Pub Bombings, his gentle Irish accent was a precious daily reminder of the inseparable ties and the great affection between two close and tolerant nations. Wogan never mentioned the Troubles on air but when it was all over, he joked about receiving "the odd death threat" and explained: "Things being done in the name of Irish freedom were not being done by me or anyone I knew."

TRANSPORT for London (TfL) has issued its annual tally of lost property left behind on trains and buses. Umbrellas, wallets, laptops and other small things are among the 300,000 items. The real puzzle is finding several drum kits. How does anyone who boards a bus carrying a bass drum, snare drum, pedal, cymbal and a pair of tom-toms manage to leave without them? And what of his fellow travellers? As the drummer prepares to step off, does no-one say: "Oi, mate! Isn't that your drum kit?" It is all very puzzling.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Garage sites chosen for council housing

AROUND 350 new homes will be built in a Black Country borough over the next five years, with affordable housing to feature in the new developments.

The £18 million plan by Dudley Council will see the homes built mainly on the sites of small blocks of garages.

The initial three garage sites involved are Ketley Hill Road, Dudley,

Lea Bank Road, Netherton, and Marley Road, Kingswinford.

The construction of new council homes as part of the scheme is now underway on sites in Sedgley, Woodsetton, Wollaston and Coseley.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Eight apartments and two houses to be built at Lea Bank Road will be affordable housing for local people.

"They are part of a council new build programme to provide 350 new homes over the next five years on a number of sites throughout the borough.

"We are currently considering a local lettings plan which could see homes let to people recovering from mental ill health. Many people in every community suffer from mental ill health at some point in their lives,

and recover with the help and support of those around them.

"As a community council we are committed to consultation. We want to know the new residents will be made welcome, so we want to hear people's views on the proposals. A few people locally have already expressed their views and these will be fully considered before any decision is made."

Burglary arrest figures 'scandalous', says MEP

By Peter Madeley

WEST Midlands Police has the lowest arrest rates for burglary of any police force in the country, new figures have revealed.

In 2014/15 the force made just seven arrests for every 100 burglaries reported, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It puts the region well below the national average of 14 arrests per 100 break-ins.

West Midlands Police (WMP) also failed to solve 90.5 per cent of burglaries in the year ending March 2014, the Home Office says.

It puts WMP as fifth worst of the UK's 43 police forces in terms of burglary clearance rates, in a period when the West Midlands was the tenth worst-hit area for burglaries.

The figures have been described as 'scandalous' by West Midlands UKIP Euro MP Bill Etheridge.

Priorities

Mr Etheridge, who is also a Sedgley councillor, has called on the police and crime commissioner to investigate the arrest rate.

"It is absolutely scandalous that so many burglaries are going unsolved," he said. "This appallingly low arrest rate shows that burglary is not at the top of their priorities.

"We keep hearing that crime is going down. Maybe reported crime has gone down but that is because people have got to the point where they don't have any faith in the police to bring criminals to justice."

But West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Crime in the West Midlands is much lower than in other urban areas. Also we have a better record of detection of burglaries than other similar forces.

"By making efficiencies I have put resources where they matter most. Those tough decisions have enabled me to protect PCSOs from redundancy and crucially put the funds in place to complete the recruitment of 450 police officers by the end of this financial year."

Zoo proposes ladies should leap in



Ladies are being encouraged to stick their neck out and pop the question to their partners at the zoo on February 29

LOVED-UP ladies are being encouraged to stick their neck out and pop the question to their partners at Dudley Zoo this leap year.

Staff have put together a special meet-and-greet package for February 29 by offering couples a close-encounter animal experience.

It is hoped that a bit of animal magic could come into play to encourage the ladies to get down on one knee and gents to say yes. The experience can happen with either giraffes, bats, lemuris, sea lions or tapirs to witness the romantic moment.

Andrea Hales, marketing manager, said: "It's a leap year which means it's traditional for the women to turn the tables and propose to their loved one on the 29th and

where better than doing it among some of the world's rarest animals and really making it a date to remember."

Packages for the zoo experience start from £125 and include a bottle of bubbly and a bouquet of flowers.

According to the Irish tradition, women can propose to to men on the date which appears on the calendar only once every four years. It is believed to have been introduced to balance the roles of men and women in a similar way to how Leap Day balances the calendar.

The Castle Hill attraction will also be offering Valentine's Day treats with gifts including animal adoptions and keeper-for-a-day experiences. Contact 0844 474 2272.

Air show's mayday is answered by a farmer

THE future of a fundraising air show which was in danger of folding after losing its venue has been secured after finding a new home.

Organisers of the popular Wings and Wheels shows were left devastated after bosses at Halfpenny Green Airport, Bobbington, pulled out of hosting the twice-yearly show.

A race against time was launched to find a new location in time for the Easter Wings and Wheels Air Day at the end of March.

Now they have landed a site near Bridgnorth to host the two-day event and further air shows.

Organiser Vaughan Meers said he was 'over the moon' after Roy Millington came offered the private airstrip on land at his farm at Chetton as an alternative location.

Visitors

Both shows, which raise thousands of pounds for charity, will go ahead under the new name, Bridgnorth Wings and Wheels.

Around 5,000 people flocked to last year's August bank holiday event which starred The Red Arrows and raised £9,000 for charity.

It was the Wings and Wheels' sixth consecutive year at Bobbington.

Mr Meers said they had been planning a special show at Halfpenny Green this year to mark its 75th anniversary as an airfield.

The show will take place at its new venue on March 27 and 28.

More than 1,350 homes are built

A WEST Midlands developer has revealed it built 1,356 homes across the region in the last year.

Barratt Developments - which includes both Barratt Homes West Midlands, based in Halesowen, and David Wilson Homes Mercia, based in Solihull - said the work supported 3,400 jobs directly and through its contractors and suppliers.

Bosses said 90 per cent of the materials used by the firm were manufactured in the UK.

Bernard Rooney, regional managing director, said: "We are proud to be a major force in the growth and prosperity of our region, and look forward to continuing our work in 2016."

Mr Rooney added that the homes were built between July 2014 and July 2015.

Trio bringing songs of the 1940s to museum

SINGING trio The D-Day Darlings will be performing at a Second World War themed event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The 26-acre Dudley museum site will be recreating the 1940s on July 16. For details call 0121 520 8054.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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Surgery's future is on agenda at meeting

A MEETING is to be held this month over the planned closure of a GP branch surgery.

The fate of Lower Gornal Medical Practice's Masefield Road surgery will be up for debate.

Masefield Road is the branch surgery of the main practice in Bull Street, Lower Gornal, a mile away.

Despite investment and a number of efforts being made, the practice feels that they are no longer in a position to offer equitable care across both sites.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Primary Care Commissioning Committee will consider the plans for the closure at a meeting in Himley Road Methodist Church on Friday, February 19.

Opinion is split over whether the surgery should remain open and patients handed in a 316-strong petition objecting to the closure.

The CCG says the practice feels that in order to provide the full range of medical services to its patients and for the services to remain viable they are proposing to close the branch.

Practice manager Lynn Britton said: "We look forward to the meeting that's being held on February 19 so we can hear the views of the public and the commissioning committee as well as getting across our own."

The meeting will take place at 1pm at Himley Road Methodist Church, Himley Road, Gornal Wood. If anyone has a question for the committee email them to Lindsey.Harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk by February 15.

Driver crushed at depot is named

A LORRY driver who died at a delivery firm depot in Brierley Hill has been named as Leighton Jardine, aged 60, of Tithe Barn Road, Stafford.

He was crushed between a lorry and a trailer at Tuffnells Parcels Express on the The Wallows Industrial Estate, in Pens Pool Avenue, on January 22.

Coroner's investigator Russell Williams told an inquest at Sandwell Coroners Court last week that Mr Jardine received fatal injuries when he was trapped. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr Williams confirmed post-mortem results have been recorded as crushing to the chest and abdomen. Senior Black Country coroner Mr Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until a hearing on March 16.

Robin gears up for vinyl offer

A RECORD and CD fair will be held at Bilston's Robin 2 on February 21.

Music fans can browse at stalls selling around 10,000 records at the event from 11am to 4pm. Admission £1. To reserve a table call 07866 237094.

New challenge for church campaigners



St John's Church at Kates Hill, Dudley

CAMPAIGNERS who won their battle to reopen a landmark church are facing a new challenge – obtaining insurance to allow them to step inside.

St John's Church Preservation Group plans to reopen the listed building in Kates Hill, Dudley, which has been empty for 14 years, for community use and worship.

But the group's bid has hit a fresh obstacle as it is struggling to get insurance to enable the building to be opened up to supporters and workers.

It was hoped members would be able to begin restoration work after

finally agreeing a lease for the building last month. They also wanted to open the former church up to visitors to raise awareness as the project got under way.

But chairman Deb Brownlee said arranging an insurance policy was proving difficult, possibly because of the building being empty and because it would have multiple uses. Currently only the churchwarden is allowed access to the Victorian building.

She described the struggle to secure insurance as 'a major worry' but said she remained confident.

Mrs Brownlee added: "We are possibly pushing the boat out a bit by trying to get the building insured for immediate public access, albeit limited to behind a roped area at the entrance, but that is why people have supported the campaign for nine years – they want to see inside. We want them to see it, and then help us get the money together for the restoration work."

"After all the hoops we've had to jump through to get this far towards saving St John's, a bit of a blip over insurance is just one more hurdle."

Investigators hired to snoop on council staff

DUDLEY Council hired private investigators on more than 40 occasions in the last five years to spy on its own staff.

The authority spent more than £16,000 of public money to hire investigators between 2011 and 2015, figures released via a Freedom of Information request show.

In every instance they were tasked with compiling evidence relating to suspected fraudulent conduct by council employees. The total spent was £16,014.

Bosses say it is necessary to bring in 'professional services' to investigate allegations. Almost 60 per cent of the investigations in Dudley resulted in no evidence being obtained.

But union leaders at a regional level said they were concerned that the authority was using private investigators to snoop on staff, many of whom had 'done nothing wrong'.

They have now contacted the council to find out why so many investigations have been launched compared with other authorities.

Probe

A total of £9,153 was spent over the period on investigations that led to staff members being cleared of any wrongdoing, including a prolonged probe into one worker that cost the public purse £1,972. Also in 2015/15, another investigation costing £1,429 also found no evidence to support the allegation.

The authority says it uses surveillance 'to support internal resource'. Bosses refused to reveal the reasons why investigators were hired for individual cases. They declined to reveal how many cases resulted in prosecutions.

Philip Tart, strategic director for resources and transformation services at the council, said: "At times serious and complex allegations such as fraudulent conduct are made against staff which have to be investigated as a matter of urgency. This will on occasion require us to bring in professional services to carry out this work quickly."

Around one third of the UK's local authorities admit to having hired private investigators over the last five years. The vast majority of investigations against members of the public.

Keith Heron, of Unison, said: "We recognise that Dudley Council has a responsibility to safeguard the public's funds, but we are concerned that they are using private investigators to snoop on staff, who often, by the council's own standards, have done nothing wrong."

Heroes get awards at mayor's ball



Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley Councillor Steve and Jayne Waltho with a glitter ball and tickets for the event

UNSUNG community heroes will be the guests of the Mayor of Dudley at a charity ball next month.

The winners of the this year's Mayor's Civic Awards will be presented with their prizes on the same night.

The event will take place on March 18 at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, from 6.45pm.

Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho said: "The Mayor's Ball is not only an opportunity to raise money for

some very worthy causes, it's also a lot of fun. And for the first time, this year we will be celebrating the winners of the civic awards too."

"There will be music and dancing and an opportunity to learn more about my five chosen charities."

"I urge people to snap up their tickets early to avoid disappointment."

Tickets for the ball cost £35

which includes a three course meal, music and other entertainment. They are available by calling 01384 815211 or emailing Christine.Skelding@dudley.gov.uk.

Meanwhile, people have until February 14 to put forward nominations for the civic awards. They can nominate online at www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards or can pick up a nomination form from libraries and leisure centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Candidates ready for by-elections

CANDIDATES in by-elections in two Dudley wards have been announced.

St James' and Kingswinford North & Wall Heath will be going to the polls on February 25.

Labour are hoping to keep the St James seat and have chosen Kathryn Baton, while Wayne Sullivan will contest the seat for the Conservatives and Graeme Lloyd stands for UKIP.

In Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Edward Lawrence aims to hold the seat for Conservatives. Lynn Boleyn (Labour), Mick Forsyth (UKIP) and Andi Mohr (Green) are also standing.

Screening for film on a football hero

A FILM telling the life story of Dudley-born England and Manchester United and footballer Duncan Edwards will be screened at an fundraising event in his home town.

The gifted player, who died from injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster, is the subject of the documentary 'And Then Came Munich'.

It will be screened at the Cable Plaza Cafe, at The Waterfront, in Brierley Hill, on March 4, at 7pm with entrance costing £5. Money from the event will go towards the appeal to save Dudley Hippodrome.

Restrictions on roads by campus

PARKING restrictions are being brought in within weeks for roads near Halesowen College's main campus after the scheme was approved.

Residents had urged Dudley Council to tackle problem parking which blocked roads, including Newfield Crescent and Whittingham Road.

Waiting bays will be introduced in Whittingham Road, operating from 7am to 7pm, with a no-waiting restriction in place in Newfield Crescent between 10am and 11am, 2pm to 3pm.

Society will hear about history of the railways

THE history of the Black Country's railways will be explored during a talk at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Black Country Society are holding their next meeting on February 24 when the speaker will be society member Keith Hodgkins with a talk entitled 'Railways of The Black Country'.

It will be held at 7.30pm at the museum in Tipton Road, Dudley.

Non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 including refreshments. For further details call (01384) 873279.

Fair at Ruskin centre

A GLASS centre in Stourbridge is holding a spring fair later this month. The event at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Wollaston Road will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, February 27.


The centre has invited 10 guest artists to take part, as well as the resident glass and craft makers.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Well Trump that! Adele is definitely radio no no

THE singer Adele has complained about Donald Trump using her music during his bid to secure the Republican nomination for The White House. Couldn't agree more, it is bad enough having to hear her turgid dirges on the radio.

□ □ □

ANOTHER brilliant idea from the wacky world of local government. This time it's Hackney Council, which is planning to introduce £1,000 fines for vagrants sleeping in doorways. Good luck with enforcing that one. Let's hope they have their credit cards handy.

□ □ □

MANY years ago, when I was more than a bit glibble and naive, I made a half-hearted attempt to haggle with a car salesman, asking him to knock £28 off the price of a car I was about to buy.

The salesman, who up until that moment had been demonstrating more pater than Jimmy Tarbuck, then returned from a cloak-and-dagger meeting with the sales manager, sadly shaking his head saying he could only give me £8 off 'plus a good tank of petrol'.

Which reminds me a bit of David Cameron's attempt to renegotiate Britain's membership of the European Union. He didn't ask for much, and they gave him slightly less than he asked for.

I bought the car anyway, and quickly grew to hate the sight of the thing when it kept blowing its head gasket. Would you be terribly surprised if the same turned out to be true for the new EU treaty?

□ □ □

THE story goes that when Elvis Presley lived at Graceland, only he was ever allowed upstairs. Not even his parents, who shared the mansion with him, were permitted in the bedrooms, lest they caught sight of him looking less than immaculate. A bit extreme, maybe, but at least it shows he took pride in his appearance.

Compare this to the story of Skerpe Park Academy in Darlington, where headmistress Kate Chisholm caused an indignant backlash by asking parents if they would be so kind as to get dressed before they dropped their children off at school. Do these people have no self-respect? What sort of future will these children have if their parents tell them it is OK to turn up to the school gates in their pyjamas?

It's the same with dress-down Fridays at work. Why Friday, as opposed to dress-down Tuesday? Rightly or wrongly, the message it sends out is that they are already winding down for the weekend, and aren't really going to bust a gut unless they have to.

Now I don't go buy into the old adage that "Clothes maketh the man", but if somebody finds it too much effort to get dressed in the morning, perhaps they are not really cut out for the demanding role of bringing up a child.



Soundtrack specialist Clint works through an idea on guitar



At work on the piano, movie music master Clint Mansell



In his hellraiser days, Clint fronts the band Pop Will Eat Itself

Dark times gave Clint fuel for his creativity

From the Black Country to New York and Hollywood... soundtrack writer Clint Mansell talks to **ANDY RICHARDSON**

HIS accent hasn't changed a bit. Clint Mansell may have become one of Hollywood's most important and successful soundtrack writers and been nominated for an Oscar but he still sounds like the same guy who used to drink at The Mitre in Stourbridge, back in the day.

The former dreadlocked-hell-raiser of The Stourbridge Scene, who led Pop Will Eat Itself into the charts during 10 inglorious years, has not developed any airs and graces. There are no delusions of grandeur, no ideas above his station. He's the same humble and intensely creative man that he ever was.

"Y'alright, man," he says, down the line from Los Angeles. He's in poor shape today, he's only had about four hours sleep. "I've got this right stinking cold. I can't shift it. I've had it for four months."

Charts

Clint's story is one of the most remarkable in the West Midlands. He formed PWEEI and gatecrashed the charts on a wave of sample-driven, industrial indie rock. Get The Girl! Kill The Baddies! hit the top 10 while X Y & Zee, Dance Of The Mad, Touched by the Hand of Ciccilina and RSVP weren't far behind. But it was tunes like Beaver Patrol, Def. Con. One., Can U Dig It? and Wise Up! Sucker that cemented their status as cult heroes. They paved the way for The Wonder Stuff, Ned's Atomic Dustbin and a plethora of others.

"I still come back to Stourbridge," he says. "I see my parents there three or four times a year. That whole scene was good to me. We had the best time."

"I remember signing on on a Wednesday and the van would be waiting around the corner to take us out of town and do a gig somewhere for £50. We weren't The Rolling Stones.



The Wrestler, Black Swan, Noah and Moon are among Clint Mansell's acclaimed film scores

We were renting vans from Value Van Hire at Brierley Hill then hitting the road in search of a good time."

Clint and bandmate Graham Crabb wrote most of the Poppies tunes until the band split in 1996.

"We'd been doing that for 10 years and Adam, Graham, Richard, Fuzz and myself had been together as friends for the best part of 15 years. We were all very much at a loss. The band sort of becomes your identity. I imagine it's similar to anyone who's been made redundant. You identify yourself through the things that you do. It took me at least three or four years to get back on my feet."

Clint went to New York. "I was lost, really. I was pretty broke as well. Suddenly you go from being in a successful band to not doing a great deal. The thing that kept me going must have been some kind of delusion. I was 33, I had no experience of anything other than

writing songs. I just wanted to give it a shot in New York.

"If it hadn't have worked out I'd just have gone back to Stourbridge to do whatever I would have been doing. Sometimes you have to chance. Don't get me wrong, it's been a lot of hard work. I've done 60 film scores.

"But without having taken that risk I'd never have gotten here. I'd missed the train to settle down and have kids. There were no other options."

In New York, Clint hooked up with the film director Darren Aronofsky, a Harvard University alumni who has subsequently been nominated for an Oscar and created such films as The Wrestler, the 300 million-dollar-grossing Black Swan and the 350 million-dollar-grossing Noah.

"Back in the day, with the band, I'd pay my dues by playing JB's in Dudley, or The Hummingbird in Birmingham. When I started

writing film scores, it was the same. At first, I was totally out of my depth. But I learnt a lot. After I'd done 10 or 12 films, I felt like I was getting the hang of it.

"It was very fortuitous to meet Darren. It changed the course of both of our lives. It turned out that our sensibilities matched up. Because he delves into the dark side, if you like.

Liberating

"For me, there were a lot of dark times during that transition from PWEEI to being a film score writer. But those dark times gave me fuel."

Clint's moody and elegiac music dovetailed perfectly with Darren's films.

"It was totally different from being in the band. Then, we'd write songs for ourselves. We'd write about anything we liked. But when you write for a film you have to serve the film and go with the director's wishes. But in a weird way, that's very liberating."

Clint scored Darren's debut film, Pi, and was retained to score the next, Requiem For A Dream, which featured the composition Lux Aeterna. The piece has been used in film and trailers while a version was re-orchestrated for choir and full orchestra on The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. Not bad for a fella from Stourbridge who used to spend most of his time drunk.

There have been more successes, most notably the scores to The Fountain, Smokin' Aces, The Wrestler, Black Swan and Moon. Clint's work is ubiquitous; featuring on Top Gear, Lost, The Da Vinci Code and in computer games.

"I've been very fortunate that I've been able to do what I've wanted while putting some bread on the table. I know I'm not right for every other film. It has to speak to me. It has to draw on something that's within me because I feel then that I can bring something to the table."

Uneasy Listening: An Evening With Clint Mansell plus special guests is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on March 23. Tickets, priced £22.50 or £27.50, are available at www.thsh.co.uk or from the box office on 0121 780 4949.

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Children should be priority at park

DEAR me, D White of Dudley, I've really ruffled your feather's haven't I! You have made many assumptions about me, but you shouldn't judge.

I too am retired and infirm, all the more reason why I don't want dogs running around my legs and jumping up me. I too have visited Himley Hall regularly for many many years and must have put a fortune in the pay machine, but I haven't been for over two years because after an incident I was too nervous of the dogs.

So do I have to stay away from my favour-

ite place just because you dog owners want all your own way?

You mention the children like to feed the ducks, they also like to ride their bikes and scooters without being chased. Do you have children or grandchildren? Is this what you want for the youngster's visiting the park?

What a sad sign of the times when dogs and their walks are more important than the well-being of children and the public. Happy walkies!

A BLAKE
Dudley

Doubts over family area

IN reply to A Blake's letter (Letters to the Editor, January 21).

It needs to be noted that the main reason given by Dudley MBC in regard to the 'dog free zone' at Himley Hall was to encourage families with children, presumably who do not have dogs, to use a safer area of the park.

However, the council at the same time did not state how they actually intended to encourage further use. There are no plans for this area to incorporate any play equipment or inclusive play facilities for children. You liken this to the provision, in the at Sandwell Valley and there is simply no comparison.

Therefore will a long patch of grass, free of dogs, really encourage more use of the park by a select demographic? I have my doubts.

C SHARP
Halesowen

Speed limit limit would be effective

THE roadworks on the Hagley Road roundabout at Pedmore still have weeks to run but it is already apparent that the permanent reduction from two lanes to one past the Foley Arms is causing gridlock on the roundabout.

In turn, this adds to the tailbacks on the approaching Hagley and Pedmore roads.

My guess is the planners have done this to improve safety past Pedmore school, something that is much needed. So why is the speed limit to remain at 40 mph?

Safety could have been improved by reducing the speed of traffic rather than constraining its flow.

Erecting 30mph signs on the Hagley Road would cost a fraction of the lane reduction work, reduce rather than increase emissions, cause zero disruption and increase the safety of the walk to school for the pupils of both Pedmore and Oldswinford primary schools. It would be cost effective and simple.

D GREALIS
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Midlands and north bearing migrant cost

IT was refreshing to hear some common sense spoken by Labour Dudley North MP, Ian Austin regarding the allocation of asylum seekers and migrants around the UK.

As he correctly points out, the north has accepted nearly 5,000 asylum seekers, the West Midlands 3,000, while the wealthy south east, south west and east of England have only taken 1,200 between them.

Some southern councils have taken no migrants at all. How is this fair and just? It is not.

When one hears of the 'prosperous south', you can now understand why they are so 'prosperous'. With minimal acceptance of asylum seekers, the southern

councils do not have the extra high costs of translators, social workers, social housing and other expense associated with hosting these migrants.

Councils in the north and Midlands have all these costs and social issues to deal with, along with constant budget cuts.

Rather than the West Midlands' MPs pleading for us to accept more asylum seekers to our regions, I hope they lend their support to their colleague, Ian Austin, in trying to persuade southern councils to accept their fair share and assist the north and Midlands with this ongoing and increasing burden.

G GRANT
Birmingham

Dogs should be on leads

RE letter by J James (Letters to the Editor, February 4).

I totally agree dogs off the lead are a pain in public places. We went to Himley last year with my five year old and there was a dog running all over the place and jumping up people.

If a large dog ran and jumped up at a small child they would be sent flying. I have a dog but keep it on the lead, all dogs in public places should be on leads and there should definitely be a dog free zone at Himley.

J GUEST
Wordsley

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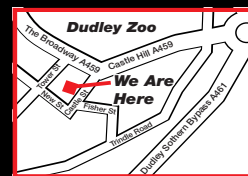
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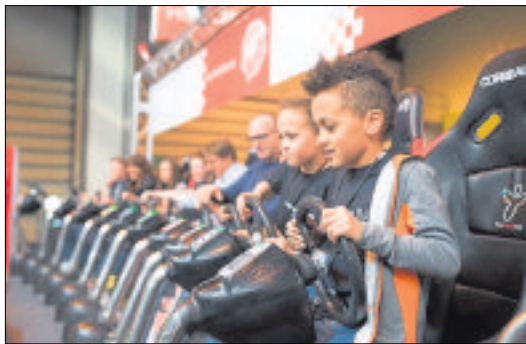


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And the Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to give 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

The Super Theatre also makes a powerful return as presenters Jason Bradbury, Jon Bentley, Oris Deley and Amy Williams host an hour-long performance overflowing with tech treats.

For the first time ever, the Super Theatre performances, featuring the

TV show's presenters, will be filmed for an episode of The Gadget Show to be broadcast on Channel Five later this year giving visitors the chance to feature in the programme alongside the presenters.

The new areas include:- Better Life – where visitors will discover tech that's been engineered to enhance their everyday lives.

Power Up – finding technology with the power to drive lives forward

The Lab – concept and innovation are integral to modern day tech and visitors can discover inspirational tech for the future

The Arcade – the place for gamers to become truly immersed in the very latest titles on the market

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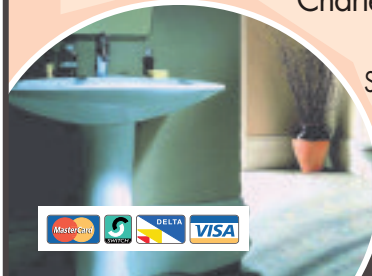
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Colourful display on cold night

Wall Heath Horticultural

FOLLOWING the Christmas break, members met again on Tuesday, February 2 for a delightful meeting.

A new idea for the guild is for members to bring a pot plant to show and be judged. This was well supported and was a great success. There was a very colourful display of blooms for a cold evening.

Derek Bull, a volunteer and garden guide at Hidcote Manor, in Gloucestershire, kindly came and talked to members about the National Trust property.

He showed examples of wonderful photographs which had been done by Country Life magazine in the 1930s up to the 1950s which were black and white leading onto more contemporary photography.

He gave a wonderful history of Lawrence Johnson (1871-1958) who owned the Manor which was purchased for him by his very wealthy American mother Gertrude Winthrop, a divorcee.

The National Trust took over the Manor and gardens in 1948. Everything that is done within the gardens is strictly overseen by English Heritage.

Chairman Amanda Ridney gave information regarding forthcoming events within the guild.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm, in the community centre, Enville Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinford.

Anyone wishing to visit or join the guild will be made very welcome. Further information can be obtained from Amanda Ridney on 01384 287480.

Cold weather leads to depleted numbers

Wollaston E TWG

THE January meeting brought in the new year, but also some very wet and cold weather. Consequently attendance at the meeting was depleted and the chairman was obliged to read out a lengthy list of apologies.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed, followed by the treasurer's and sub-section reports.

A number of outings are in the pipeline - namely a skittles/fish and chips evening, a visit to the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, lunch at the College of Food in Birmingham, and a trip to see Grease at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The speaker was Malcolm Astley, who with the aid of slides, gave a good insight into the history of National Trust's Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton - a resting place of Charles II during his escape after defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

Raffle winners were Jean Millward and Wendy Crickard and the competition was won by Julie Willetts.

Successful year for thriving club

Clent Gardening Club

THE club's AGM was held on January 22 at Clent Village hall and a healthy turn out of members were in attendance to hear the chairman report on another successful year for this thriving village club.

He reported that, although overall membership was slightly down on previous years the monthly meetings were generally well attended and during the preceding 12 months had enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers, culminating in its first celebrity speaker in November.

He also reported on two enjoyable outings and a successful annual Flower Show held in conjunction with Clent WI.

Election of officers followed and John Partington was re-elected as honorary president, Mar-

tin Grange as chairman, Peter Orme as honorary treasurer and Ann Hunt as honorary secretary.

The chairman presented garden vouchers and a pot of seasonal daffodils as a token of the club's gratitude to retiring committee members Marie Turner, Janet Babb and former chairman Pat Orme each of whom had given many years of service.

The first meeting of 2016 will be held at the village hall on February 26, with a talk by Patrick Clement entitled "Garden Moths and Butterflies".

For further details on joining or visiting visit <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com> or call Martin Grange on 01562 883009/07917 184762.

New members to start off year

Kingswinford Folk Dance Club

THE final event of 2015 was as usual, a party night. In addition to dancing, members enjoyed a shared supper and instead of Christmas cards, a donation was made to the charity fund.

The destination of the collection was chosen by Norma, who held the lucky ticket in the raffle.

The new year got off to a rousing start as there are several new members. As funds

are stable the annual subscription can remain at £3 per annum. A 'thank you' letter was read out which had been sent to Norma, from Barnardo's, her chosen charity.

The club meets in St Mary's School, Kingswinford, on alternate Thursdays from 7.45pm. Prospective new members are always welcome.

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Thousands use internet to bully

ONLINE bullies have committed more than 1,800 Facebook stalking and harassment offences in the last five years in the West Midlands.

Crimes included disclosure of private, sexual photographs and films, racially and religiously aggravated harassment, stalking involving fear of violence, serious alarm or distress and breaches of restraining orders.

The figures, which have been released under Freedom of Information laws, show that cyber-bullies and internet trolls are still rife with people are using the internet to make others lives a misery.

Of the 1,841 incidents recorded by West Midlands Police, 290 people were charged, including 124 youths.

Warnings were issued to 38 people and cautions were given to 54 – 15 young people and 39 adults. On 240 occasions, cases were dropped due to evidential difficulties and community resolutions were the outcome in 273 of the cases.

Community hub is to make way for housing



Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho outside St Thomas's HQ

A COMMUNITY centre that was closed after serving families in Dudley for more than 25 years will be demolished to make way for a housing estate.

Community leaders expressed their sadness at the final decision to bulldoze St Thomas' Network, in Kates Hill, which announced it was closing last July.

A Facebook campaign had started to save the centre but it was shut in September with 30 staff losing their jobs.

The centre, in Beechwood Road, had struggled for funding especially during its final two years. This was exacerbated after the centre lost a £80,000 annual grant from Dudley Council in 2010 which hit budgets.

The centre, that was once Blue Coat School which counted comedian Lenny Henry among its pupils, has been earmarked for homes.

Former St Thomas' Network board of trustees chairman, Councillor Steve Waltho, said the centre's legacy lived on through new projects in Kates Hill.

"I have mixed feelings – it is sad but if I could pick anything to go in its place it is social housing," he said.

Construction sector set to recruit 10,000

THE regeneration of Birmingham city centre and major road improvements will help create up to 10,000 construction jobs across the West Midlands over the next five years, according to a new report.

Figures from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reveal that construction employment in the West Midlands is set to rise by 10,200 by 2021, with an estimated total of 215,000 jobs predicted in the region by 2020.

CITB's Construction Skills Network report forecasts that employment is set to rise at an annual average rate of one per cent between 2016 and 2020, with the labouring trade seeing the largest expansion at a rate of 3.7 per cent, followed by bricklayers, steel erectors and civil engineers. One of the largest retail-orientated projects is the £500m redevelopment of Birmingham city centre. Infrastructure output should also be buoyed by £1.8bn worth of investment into the Midlands' roads network.

Meeting with minister over the menace of zombie knives

A CAMPAIGN against the sale of 'zombie knives' by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is being taken to Whitehall.

Commissioner David Jamieson is to meet with Home Office minister Karen Bradley MP next month as he takes his battle against the sale of 'zombie knives' to the heart of Government.

He is calling for a total ban on the sale of the blades, which have names such as Head Splitter, Death Dagger and The Skinner.

The commissioner said the knives are being increasingly used by criminal gangs.

Mr Jamieson has also written to the chief executive of Amazon UK calling for an immediate ban on the sale of zombie knives. Questions on the vicious-looking blades have also been tabled in Parliament by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. The Home Office has said it that it is aware of concerns about zombie knives.

Mr Jamieson said: "I am pleased that having raised this issue the Government is taking it seriously and I am looking forward to a productive meeting."

"I also hope the Government brings Amazon to the table. I am not saying Amazon is the only company selling these items – far from it, unfortunately they are available from many outlets – but it is the biggest online retailer in the country and where it leads, others follow."

"I also want to be clear that I am not against the legal and responsible sale of knives in general – obviously they have a practical use in the home and garden. But these zombie knives have no practical usage whatsoever. These are truly terrible weapons that need to be removed from the streets as soon as possible."



Dudley North MP Ian Austin

Peer to talk on ancestral home

THE 12th Viscount Cobham will be the guest speaker at Stourbridge Historical Society's next meeting.

Lord Cobham will be talking about the Lyttelton family's ancestral home of Hagley Hall. The illustrated talk Hagley Hall, Past, Present and Future is being presented in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday, February 18 at 7.30pm. Admission for non-members will be £3.

The current Viscount is Christopher Lyttelton, who succeeded his late brother John in 2006.

The house is set in 350 acres of landscaped deer park. There has been a park at Hagley since the reign of Edward III in the 14th century.

The society celebrates its 70th anniversary on March 17 when there will be entertainment from The Old Contemptsibles.

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Ten years for drug dealer who rammed police cars



The shotgun found in a car outside Morris's home in Brierley Hill, shotgun shells and a revolver was also found

A DRUG dealer from Brierley Hill has been jailed for more than 10 years after a police swoop found two guns in a car parked outside his home.

Unemployed Nathan Morris was arrested after being seen dealing drugs from his car in Church Street, Darlaston, on August 26.

The 28-year-old realised he had been spotted, reversed at speed and rammed three police cars and another stationary vehicle in his bid to escape.

Officers managed to stop the car and detained Morris while a search of the car revealed several wraps of drugs and two mobile phones.

Heroin

Police then raided his home in Madison Avenue, Brierley Hill, where they discovered a large quantity of heroin and cocaine.

They also searched a black Ford Mondeo for which Morris had the ignition key and found more drugs and two firearms – a bolt action shotgun and a revolver – plus shotgun shells.

He changed his plea to guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court where he was due to stand trial accused of possession of two firearms, ammunition, heroin and cocaine, together with dangerous driving.

Morris was sentenced to 10 years and three months in prison.

Inspector Keeley Bevington, from Walsall Police, said: "This lengthy sentence shows that gun and drug crime have no place in our communities."

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "The public are our eyes and ears in our long-term plan to tackle gun crime and I want to appeal directly to our communities to contact us with any information you have about gun and gang crime."

Meanwhile, scores of crooks from the Black Country have been jailed after a six-week blitz on crime.

Officers in Sandwell have issued their thanks to members of the public for their help in bringing the criminals to justice as part of the Safer Six campaign, which included several dawn raids on addresses.



Drug dealer Nathan Morris, aged 28

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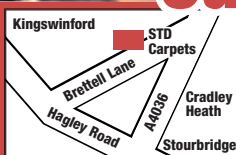
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Top rating delights headmaster

A HEADTEACHER has spoken of his pride after leading his special school to its third consecutive 'outstanding' rating from inspectors Ofsted.

The Brier School in King'swinford retained the status following an inspection in December. It is thought to be the first school in Dudley borough to be labelled outstanding three times running.

Headteacher Russell Hinton said: "I am extremely proud of The Brier School's achievements. Children and staff were magnificent and without their work and the strong support of the governing body, none of it would be achievable. Parents and carers were very supportive too. There are still things to do and achieve and inspectors have given us targets which we will work to over the next three years."

Bigger unit for society

DUDLEY Building Society is relocating its Kingswinford branch over the coming months to new larger premises.

It will transfer from its current High Street location to take up a prime position in a larger corner unit within the Townsend Place Precinct in the spring.

Kingswinford branch supervisor Helen Biggs said the new branch would be more spacious for customers.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

Smooth road ahead delights residents after pothole years

A COUNCILLOR has welcomed road surfacing work that has taken place along a formerly heavily potholed route.

Envile Road in Wall Heath had been left damaged by heavy vehicles travelling to and from the Envile Road Quarry for many years.

But after the quarry closed, work has since been able to take place on restoring the road, completed on Saturday.

by Jamie Brassington

its constant use by quarry traffic has had a major effect on the surface," said Councillor Tyler. "But it would have been pointless resurfacing the road during the lifetime of the quarry."

"From the point of view of the tax payers, if the lorries would still have been operating all that good work would have been destroyed. That's what happened last time, with the anti-skid road surfacing. As soon as they laid that down the lorries ripped it up. That wasn't intentional, of course, but it became dangerous, especially for motorcyclists."

The quarry closed down on April 30 and owners FG Davis & Sons are required to restore the site to greenery.

The decision was seen as a victory for nearby residents, who had long complained about the traffic and dirt.

He said: "It has been a brilliant job. The local residents are absolutely thrilled."

"At last they have got a good road surface, after many years. It is absolutely lovely now, it is a pleasure to drive along."

Battle

The quarry was closed last year following a six-year battle to close the site by campaigners. It had originally opened in the 1930s.

Heavy good vehicles were down the surface over the years and there was concern it had become 'dangerous' for road users. But because of the continuing volume of traffic, plans for surfacing had to be held back.

"The state of the road and



Gold standard – coach Simon Baggot with victorious badminton players from Kingswinford School

Badminton gold glory for school teams

KINGSWINFORD School is celebrating sporting glory after its badminton teams ran out gold medal winners in the Dudley Schools games.

Three teams came out victors in the Key Stage Three and Four categories of the games held at the school.

Their victories will mean they will be representing the district in the Black Country School Games for a record-breaking tenth year in a row.

Headteacher Mrs Bronwyn Hedley said: "This is a very proud moment for not only all students and staff here at The Kingswinford School but also the borough of Dudley and the Black Country. "The school has gone from strength to strength since achieving the prestigious status of becoming an England Badminton Academy School in 2006."

The gold-medal-winning teams were Key Stage Three Girls, Key Stage Four Girls and Key Stage Four Boys.

The teams are coached by Simon Baggot and Maureen South, who are also school governors.

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Grassroots arts at pub festival

ARTISTS, performers and film makers have been urged to get involved in an upcoming Black Country arts festival.

Cradley Heath Creative have organised the two-day event at the Hollybush Pub in Newtown Lane on April 16 and 17.

Last year the group ran a one-day festival in March called 'Locked In'. A total of 52 artists took part and around 250 people attended. This year there will be two stages, including the group's adapted horse trailer, called Oss Box.

Lizzy Lee, Cradley Heath Creative's secretary, said: "The aim is to get creative people, amateur and professional, making new work for the festival and responding to the theme 'Grassroots'." For more details visit the group's Facebook page, email lordhofr@gmail.com or phone 07952 563725.

Law firm raise £10k for charity



Ray Nash from the Alzheimer's Society (centre) with Nyree Applegarth and Richard Griffiths, both of Brierley Hill-based law firm Higgs & Sons

FUNDRAISERS at Black Country law firm Higgs & Sons were on the case once again last year after raising £15,000 for its chosen charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

The five-figure sum matches the record breaking amount raised by the Brierley Hill-based firm the previous year.

"This is an incredible amount of money which reflects the efforts of staff across the entire firm who supported, organised and participated in a whole host of activities throughout last year," said Tim Jones, partner at Higgs & Sons. He co-ordinates the firm's corporate social responsibility programme, Community Matters.

"Everyone at Higgs is involved in choosing the charity of the year and it has been fantastic working alongside the Alzheimer's Society, learning more about the work they do and organising the various activities

London schools get £1k more per pupil

SCHOOLS in the West Midlands are suffering from a funding shortfall of more than £1,000 per pupil compared with schools in London.

Research by accountants Bishop Fleming says the funding gap is the equivalent of employing 20 extra teachers per school.

Joe Scaife, lead partner at Bishop Fleming's educational team, said: "The biggest message from our latest report is the need for politicians to deliver a more level playing field.

"It is very difficult to justify the fact that 18 of the 20 top funded local authorities are London boroughs, and that there is a funding gap between London and the West Midlands of £1,003 per pupil. Indeed, our report reveals that West Midlands schools receive more than £100 per pupil less than the national average. Why should West Midlands schools, and their pupils, have to suffer such a disadvantage?"

Businesses are demanding air, road and rail improvements

IMPROVEMENTS in transport links for the Black Country and wider West Midlands are being demanded by businesses in the area.

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce's transport group chairman Colin Leighfield said it believed that improved transport could help deliver £2.5 billion of the growth in the Black Country by 2023.

He said that the chamber wants to see more airlines attracted to Birmingham International Airport.

Mr Leighfield said recent news of the airport being the cheapest to reach and the additional flights from Turkish Airlines had come on top of its record year in 2015 with a five per cent increase in passengers to 10.2 million.

"This is really good news considering that our members are telling us Birmingham Airport would be their preferred choice airport for international flights.

"Our challenges for the airport are twofold: attracting airlines that are experiencing congestion in the south-east and working with HS2 to deliver a world class interchange improving the

accessibility of the airport to passengers experiencing grid lock as they try to use Heathrow or Gatwick.

"There appears to be a major opportunity for two of the region's major transport infrastructure assets to create something extraordinary."

Mr Leighfield said the chamber was already working with the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority to find ways of relieving road congestion on the motorway network.

"Our members cannot but wonder why we cannot make better use of the M6 Toll," he added.

Movie preview with director

A NEW movie is to be given a preview screening in Birmingham. High Rise is based on a novel by the late science fiction author JG Ballard and looks at the breakdown of society via the inhabitants of an apartment block.

It has been directed by Ben Wheatley, who has also directed episodes of Doctor Who and made the film A Field In England. It is being shown at the Electric Cinema on March 8 at 8pm with the director taking part in a question-and-answer session after the screening.

High Rise, certificate 18, stars Tom Hiddleston, Sienna Miller and Jeremy Irons, and goes on general release on March 18. The music has been composed by former Pop Will Eat Itself musician Clint Mansell.

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Weekender for mods

A MOD weekend event is taking place in Wolverhampton in May.

Newhampton Arts Centre, in Dunkley Street, will play host to the event on May 20 and 21.

There will be music each evening from 8pm to 1.30am.

On the Saturday from 10.30am to 6pm there will be a Modernist fair and a mass scooter ride.

Tickets cost £12 for the weekend or £6 per day available from the box office on 01902 572090.

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Shock as assaults on police has reached 440

POLICE officers in the West Midlands have been assaulted more than 440 times in the line of duty, new figures reveal.

The number has risen from the previous year when there were 419 reports of police officers attacked from March 2013 to March 2014.

In the 12 months from March 2014, Wolverhampton had the most officer assaults with 89; then Walsall at 53; Dudley at 41 and Sandwell came in with the lowest at 21. Overall, 238 officers were assaulted across Birmingham across the whole of the city, making the total number of assaults 442.

Praise

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson says he is shocked by the figures and he heaped praise on 'public serving' police officers.

He said: "It is outrageous that during the course of their duty police officers are attacked. They are hard-working public servants who should be allowed to go carry out their job without fear of violence."

"It is always shocking to see figures relating to these sorts of attacks and I want

By David Callaghan

those responsible to feel the full force of the law. It is the job of police officers to keep the public safe and it is totally unacceptable that they have to endure such treatment."

The statistics were published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and were collected by the Home Office.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said: "Whilst one assault on an officer is one too many, the nature of policing carries some risk. In the West Midlands our officers are trained in personal safety techniques. They are also suitably equipped to ensure that they are able to discharge their duties as safely as possible in protecting our communities."

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Cakes by Caterina Bianchi has exhibited at previous wedding fairs, and this year there will be more stalls than ever

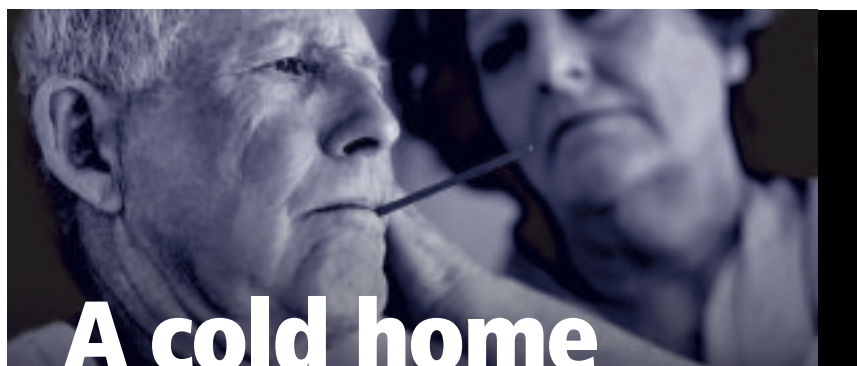
WOLVERHAMPTON Magazine is hosting its fifth annual wedding fair and due to its continued success the show will be held at Molineux for the first time.

The wedding fair has previously been staged at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall, but to accommodate growing demand is moving to a larger venue.

Brides-to-be are expected to flock to Wolverhampton Magazine's Wedding Fair planned for Sunday, March 20, from 11am to 4pm. The event will be held in the stylish WV1 suite, overlooking the pitch, and the goal is to ensure visitors walk away with ideas galore for the big day. The increased space means people will be able to browse up to 45 stands.

The fair, sponsored by Cousins Furniture, will boast specialists who can cater for every requirement, from the all-important dress to the transport. Exciting hair and make-up demonstrations will also be taking place. Brides can register on arrival for free admission.

For more information about exhibiting at the fair call 01902 319693 or email deana.jones@expressandstar.co.uk



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Early daffs help visitor figures bloom at manor

SPRING has not yet sprung but that hasn't stopped a small collection of daffodils growing in the gardens at Wightwick Manor, on the edge of Wolverhampton.

The yellow flowers have appeared in the sheltered area by the historic house and shop, which is now run by the National Trust.

Up until recently, due to the mild, wet weather, the garden was still growing roses until they had to be chopped back to allow for regrowth later in the year.

John Wood, conservation and engagement manager for Wightwick Manor and Gardens, said: "We have got a team of two full time gardeners and up to 30 volunteers who help out on various days in the week.

"With the endless rain we have had, many areas of the gardens have been like a sponge, only just drying

out now. Only the land by the pond remains damp underfoot."

The garden also has a collection of snowdrops flowering, with the blossoming plants encouraging more people to visit the grounds.

Donor

"Our visitor numbers are already up on last year," said Mr Wood.

"As soon as the sun is out, people want to be in our gardens, looking at the flowers."

Black Country industrialist and art collector Geoffrey Mander gave the Victorian manor and gardens to the National Trust in 1937, continuing to live on the site until his death in 1962.

It was the first country house to be presented to the trust during the lifetime of its donor.



Spring is on the way – the daffodils stand proud in front of Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

Promise over £70m education funding

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has been promised that £70 million of Government funding for education will be spent during the next four years.

The Labour MP wrote to education minister Sam Gyimah to clarify what the Government planned to do with the cash.

In response, Mr Gyimah, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education, said ministers were committed to "transforming" the quality of education.

He explained: "This £70 million will be spent over the next four years, to 2020. We have not yet finalised how much will be spent each year or how it will be allocated but can confirm that there will be continued funding for the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) to continue its excellent work.

"We anticipate that this will include funding to support the Enterprise Adviser Network, the Careers and Enterprise Fund, the Enterprise Passport, the CEC's research programme and its wider activity.

"We will make further announcements in due course."

Ex-head admits to indecent pictures

A FORMER headteacher from Stourbridge has admitted making indecent images of children.

Ross Workman had more than 500 pictures and videos on his computer's hard drive, court documents revealed.

The 51-year-old pleaded guilty to six counts of making an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child at a brief hearing last week.

Workman, formerly of Stourbridge but now of Low Fold Close, Worcester, appeared before Dudley magistrates, speaking only to confirm his address and his date of birth.

The disgraced headteacher, who was previously of good character, was arrested by detectives from the force's Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team in November 2014.

He was immediately suspended from his role at Oldswinford CE Primary School at the time and letters were sent home to parents.

Police said there was no evidence regarding pupils at the school arising as part of the investigation.

Court documents revealed Workman's hard drive contained 440 still images and 92 moving images.

Forty still images and 48 moving were in category A – the most serious – with 80 still images and 34 moving images in category B, and 320 still and 10 moving in category C.

Search

Workman, who was wearing a pinstripe grey suit, light shirt and purple tie, will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 2.

Miss Melanie Hughes, prosecuting, said: "On November 3, 2014 officers from the Online Child Sex Exploitation Team executed a search warrant at Mr Workman's home address.

"At the time Mr Workman was the head of Old-



Ross Workman

swinford Primary School. His computer equipment was handed over to the police and contained indecent images of children, ranging from levels one to five. There were some movies on there also.

"Mr Workman didn't contest the contents, saying it was him alone who had access to the computer."

Miss Judith Kenny, defending, told the magistrates: "I invite you to commit to sentence at Wolverhampton Crown Court."

He will be sentenced in Wolverhampton on March 2.

After Workman was charged, director of education for the Diocese of Worcester, Ann Mundy said: "Mr Workman was suspended from Oldswinford CE Primary following his arrest."

The school declined to comment.

Football dinner speaker

FORMER Wolves and England Under-23s footballer Steve Kindon will be a guest speaker at the Copthorne Hotel at Brierley Hill in May. The event, organised by Dudley Town Football Club, will see the 65-year-old, who made 138 appearances for Wolves from 1972-77, scoring 28 goals, talk about his career. The dinner is £35 per person and £350 for a table of 10. Contact 07412046050 or 07986549675.

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Ron Hadley, left and a young Maurice Oakley with the 1911 Austin town carriage which had been damaged in 1963



From left, Jack Jones, foreman at Brade-Leigh Products in Great Bridge with Maurice and Ronald and the Austin

Austin carriage revs back into Maurice's life half a century on

LITTLE could the young Maurice Oakley have known when he put the finishing touches to repairs to a bashed up 1911 Austin town carriage in May 1963 that he would get to see it again more than 50 years on.

Mind you, he could not have known either that a photograph showing him and his colleague Ron Hadley, who is on the left, working on the vehicle at Brade-Leigh Products at Great Bridge would re-emerge all those years later too.

"I couldn't believe it," said Mr Oakley, of Hamstead, Road, Great Barr. He remembers the repair job well. I was 23 then, and it had been in a smash, and came into Brade-Leigh Products to be repaired. It belonged to Longbridge [the Austin Motor Co], and was being transported from Longbridge, going to a show or something

MEMORY LANE

Report by Alex Ross

like that, and was on a low loader or a mid low loader. What I remember is that it went under a low bridge and it smashed the top over.

"It was hit at the top of the roof above the driver and it buckled part of the roof. One or both doors had to be repaired.

"I had to replace some broken and damaged timbers. I was a commercial body builder."

Mr Oakley, who lived in those days in Dudley Street, West Bromwich, and earned 6s 2d a week as a coach builder, recalls of the vehicle: "It's like what you would see on Downton Abbey, in which the posh lady went to town with the driver."

Not long ago he got to wondering what had become of the vehicle, and with a bit of searching on the internet tracked it down to the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, where it

is part of the museum collection. "It was hard to believe. My daughter got a number for Gaydon. I rang them up. There's a curator there, Steve Laing, and I was telling him about the car. He didn't know it had been in a smash in 1963 and looked all through his records and couldn't find anything about this car being damaged.

"He asked if there was any chance of me coming down and bringing any photos and literature, and that we could have a chat, which I did, about a month ago.

Mr Oakley was able to run his expert eye over the vehicle with which he had such a personal association. "It was very strange standing there. You can see part of it where it could have been worked on again to bring it up to scratch. I think they will probably leave it as it is rather than start disturbing things."

Mr Oakley, often known by his colleagues by the nickname 'Mossa', says he would love to hear from anybody he used to work with all those years ago. Mr Oakley is on 0121 358 1961.



Maurice comes face to face with the carriage 50 years later at the Heritage Motor Centre

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Village green bid to protect historic plot

A CAMPAIGN is under way to protect Netherton's equivalent to a village green area from development.

Netherton Green has been an historic feature of the town, says a campaigner who has been researching its history.

The land, at the junction of Halesowen Road and Castleton Street, was once used as a play area by children from the former Church Road School. Underground air raid shelters were created on the site during the Second World War as an escape from the school opposite.

The green area now incorporates a lawn, flower bed, a toilet block and the sculpture depicting Netherton athlete Joseph Darby, a trick jumper who was famous for leaps from a stationary position. Joesy the Jumper, who died in 1937, became a celebrity in the late Victorian era.

Researcher Tony Foley, who has lived in the town for 30 years, has been looking into the history of the site. The 57-year-old surveyor found that council officials had talked of designating the site a village green in the 1950s but those plans never came to fruition.

Now Mr Foley says resurrecting

the plans could be a catalyst for improving the centre of Netherton. He has now made a planning application to Dudley Council to register the site as a designated village green, which would give the site protection equivalent to Green Belt land.

Mr Foley said: "It would be nice to keep it free from any development in the future. It is at the centre of Netherton and it could be made even more of a feature."

Aynuk

"It had been discussed by the council years ago and nothing was ever done. I just thought it would be a good idea," he added.

Black Country comedian Alan Smith, better known as Aynuk, has lived in Netherton his whole life, said - while he did have reservations about the scheme - he said the site did have an historic role to play.

"I remember when there were air raid shelters there and we would go across from the old church school for dummy runs," said the 78-year-old.

He added: "I'm not sure that there could be much built there anyway. It is not the most picturesque area."

The village green proposal will be discussed by Dudley Council in the coming weeks.



The open land around the Darby statue in Castleton Street in Netherton could become a 'village green'

Widow was tricked out of life savings by nephew's wife

AN ELDERLY widow was 'cynically' duped out of her life savings by a family member, a court was told.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Rebecca Thompson conned vulnerable 75-year-old Dudley widow Beryl Ashfield out of more than £36,000.

Thompson, of Stubby Lane, Wednesfield, admitted three counts of fraud at an earlier hearing and last week was jailed for 20 months.

Thompson, whose husband is Mrs Ashfield's nephew, drained the pensioner of her life savings in a con which was uncovered by the victim's grand-daughter.

After initially befriending Mrs Ashfield, in 2013, Thompson turned her attention to swindling the widow out of cash - eventually taking a total of £36,856.71.

Judge Michael Challinor said Thompson had forged signatures, impersonated Mrs Ashfield on the telephone and persuaded her to open a bank account which Thompson then used for her own ends.

Mr Lee Egan, prosecuting, said 37-year-old Thompson spent tens of thousands on jewellery, flowers and vets' bills. Mr Egan said: "This had a massive impact on Mrs Ashfield's life. The money taken was money provided by her deceased husband for her to secure her in her old age. Now she is totally reliant on her old age pension."

Miss Alison Scott-Jones, defending, said Thompson, who cares for her son and step-daughter, had shown 'remorse', adding: "She recognises that the breach of trust is enormous and she won't ever be able to repair that."

Sentencing Thompson, Judge Challinor said: "You deliberately and cynically drained Beryl Ashfield's life savings."

Police boss wants fairer deal from Whitehall

POLICE and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson urged the Government to give West Midlands Police a 'fairer deal' on funding.

The force is closing 13 stations as part of wider cuts in the face of a £2.5 million drop in funding this year - including Halesowen police station in January next year.

A new police funding scheme, which will determine how much the force gets from Whitehall next year, is being reviewed. Mr Jamieson said he hoped the revised deal would ease the financial pressure on the force.

Changed

West Midlands Police received £452.6m in government funding last year but officials claim the force will receive £450.1m this year.

A spokesman for Mr Jamieson said: "The funding formula for police forces has not changed."

"The Government abandoned changes to the way in which police forces are funded, after a botched process in which the Home Office made serious errors."

"The funding formula is set to be reviewed again this year. In the meantime, West Midlands Police are still waiting for a fairer deal from the Government."

"The funding that West Midlands Police receives from government will be £2.5m lower this year than it was last year."

Mr Jamieson added: "One thing is clear, funding has not been protected, the Government wants me to raise the council tax to fill the gap."

"Theresa May has written to Police and Crime Commissioner's and admitted that there is a 1.3 per cent cut in funding to local police forces."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julian Knight MP and Mike Wood MP for their contributions



Commissioner Jamieson

to the Westminster Hall debate on 'Funding for West Midlands Police' and their calls for there to be greater flexibility on council tax increases.

"The Chancellor has clearly listened to them and duly given the powers to PCCs to raise council tax by higher amounts than before."

The announcement police stations across the force area, including 13 in the Black Country, would close sparked concerns among community leaders.

Among the opponents was Dudley South MP Mike Wood who urged the force to rethink plans to shut stations in his constituency.

In Wolverhampton, Heath Town and Graiseley have shut with more to follow in the city, alongside others in Great Barr and Netherton. Dudley station will go on August 31 and King'swinford police station is expected to close within the next 18 months.

A total of 16 police bases in Birmingham are to close.

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Pauline Hodgetts lays flowers at the memorial before the unveiling



West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey uncovers the plaque in tribute to those killed in the raid



Rev Denise Williams leads the service in Tipton Cemetery where the plaque was unveiled



Local historian Derek Nicholls with Mr Bailey and the memorial plaque at the cemetery



Claire Hughes, aged 56, linked by family to victims at their unmarked graves



Keith Hodgkins from Tipton Civic Society records the proceedings

Tribute to Zeppelin victims

"WHAT a touching tribute to commemorate Tipton's lost ones 100 years on" – the words of historian Derek Nicholls after a memorial plaque was unveiled marking the Zeppelin Raids centenary.

Orchestrated by Mr Nicholls, who has spent three years researching the raids, and with help from Friends of Tipton, more than 100 people, along with Mayor councillor Barbara Price, turned out on Friday morning to remember the 14 local people who died in the raid.

The plaque itself was unveiled by West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey at Tipton cemetery,

on Alexandra Road. On January 31 1916, the Black Country was targeted by mistake, as the German airship pilot mistook the area for Merseyside, killing 33 people in total, across Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall.

Bombs first hit Union Street in Tipton at around 8pm, with around five falling in the area.

One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged and the gas main was set alight.

Among those who attended the service were John Wilkinson, Terry Britt and Alan James, who are all connected through Annie Wilkinson – John and Mr Britt's great aunt and

Alan's great grandmother, who tragically died in the bombings.

Mr Nicholls was overjoyed to see the plaque installed at the cemetery, describing it as a 'proud day for Tipton'. He said: "I never thought in my wildest dreams something like this would happen, and it's something the area should be very honoured to have." The memorial unveiling came after candles were lit for each of the Zeppelin's six victims in Walsall.

Civic leaders from across the West Midlands and Staffordshire joined parishioners at St Andrew's Church in Birchills, where the last of 400 bombs to hail down over the Black Country on the night of January 31 landed on the lawn, used as a bowling green, beside the red-brick church.

The lives of the victims, which included the town's Lady Mayoress Mary Slater, were remembered in readings and hymns. The service, led by Fr Iain Templeton, was held on Sunday, January 31, the exact anniversary of the First World War attack.

The congregation heard how Walsall still bears the scars of that night, with damage from the raids visible on the side of a building in Bradford Place, now the Labour Club.

Leading the congregation was Walsall mayor Councillor Angela Underhill who was joined by the mayors of Dudley, Tamworth, Shrewsbury and Solihull, the deputy mayor of Walsall and the chairman of South Staffordshire District Council. Firefighters from Bloxwich Fire Station also attended.

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Give a name to new Slade ale

A COMPETITION is being held to name a new beer being created in honour of Black Country pop group Slade's 50th anniversary.

Two Towers Brewery in Birmingham is creating two ales to mark the glam rockers' golden anniversary. One will be a light ale to be bottled and sold at the 50th anniversary fans' convention being held in the Slade Rooms in Broad Street, Wolverhampton, on March 19 from 1pm to 11pm. The other is a dark ale for which it is inviting name suggestions. They can be e-mailed to twotowersbrewery.com.petition@gmail.com. Tribute act Slade UK will be playing at the convention. Tickets are £10.

Peaky into gangland past at the museum



Peaky Blinders style at the Black Country Living Museum

FANS of the hit television drama Peaky Blinders will be able to celebrate the show at a themed event coming the Black Country Living Museum.

The Tipton Road attraction has drawn attention around the world as it became known that the producers of the between the wars gangster saga film many of the scenes at the Dudley museum. The canal side yard and foundry are among the areas used as backdrops to the action over the past three series.

The themed event on September 10 will feature live music, dancing and gin cocktails as the museum recreate the glamour and the grime of Peaky Blinders era.

The Bottle and Glass Inn will be serving bottles of a specially brewed Peaky Blinders beer made by Lye-based brewery Sadler's.

Street theatre will take place across the museum site to give the impression that the notorious gang are on the prowl.

Fat caps and authentic 1930s style grandad shirts will be on sale at the museum, as well as an onsite 1930s-style barber by appointment for those who want to perfect their Peaky look.

Tickets went on sale this week and the event is for over 16s only. See www.bclm.com/peakyblinders

Car dealer hit with £4,000 court bill

A CAR dealer has landed a court bill of more than £4,000 after admitting making false claims about a car sold to a Dudley resident.

Dudley Council Trading Standards led the prosecution of Bradley Bailey, who traded as Stonebridge Warwickshire at Rugby Road, Binley Woods, Warwickshire, admitted seven offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

Magistrates heard Bailey, of Crabmill Close, Knowle, sold a Vauxhall Corsa in August 2014 claiming it came with an RAC warranty, that it had been finance-checked and had been regularly serviced. All the claims were untrue.

The court was told the car broke down within 20 miles after being purchased and hasn't been used since. Bailey was fined £1,000 by Dudley magistrates, ordered to pay compensation of £1,375, costs of £2,065 and £40 victim surcharge.

Chemical company is hit with £500k bill after acid cloud leak

A CHEMICAL company where an explosion sent an acid gas cloud sweeping across its neighbours has been ordered to pay almost £500,000.

Solvay Solutions UK did not properly check a piece of equipment that broke in a 'catastrophic' failure. A ground hugging white haze billowed from its factory in Trinity Street, Oldbury.

Those caught in the mist found it difficult to breathe and had streaming eyes, the court

heard. As a result, the firm has been hit with a £333,000 fine and £110,000 costs at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

"It was an alarming experience and produced physical effects but not long lasting effects," said Mr James Puzey, prosecuting.

Only 15 of the 250-strong workforce were on duty when disaster struck at noon on January 2, 2009, as it was a public holiday.

Flames flared from a phosphine converter when a metal bar broke and a valve was jammed

open by the blast, allowing phosphine gas to leak and combine with air creating phosphoric acid.

Mr Stephen Hockman QC, defending, said: "This is a very reputable organisation that has never been in front of any court before."

The company pleaded guilty to two charges of failing to ensure the health and safety of their employees and others. Jean-Francois Berthiaume, director of Solvay Solutions UK, has said all recommendations made by the Health and Safety Executive have been put in place.

Fire caused by electric blanket

AN ELDERLY man was taken to hospital after an electric blanket fire.

Emergency crews attended the incident on Thursday night at a property in Havacre Lane, Coseley. The fire was caused by a blanket and it spread through the bedroom.

The 78-year-old man put out the blaze with a fire extinguisher before emergency crews arrived. He was treated for smoke inhalation before being taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Firefighter Gareth Richards, from Tipton Fire Station, said: "We warn everyone to check their electric blankets regularly."

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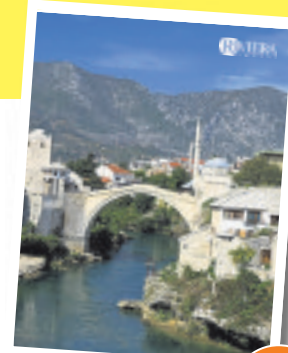
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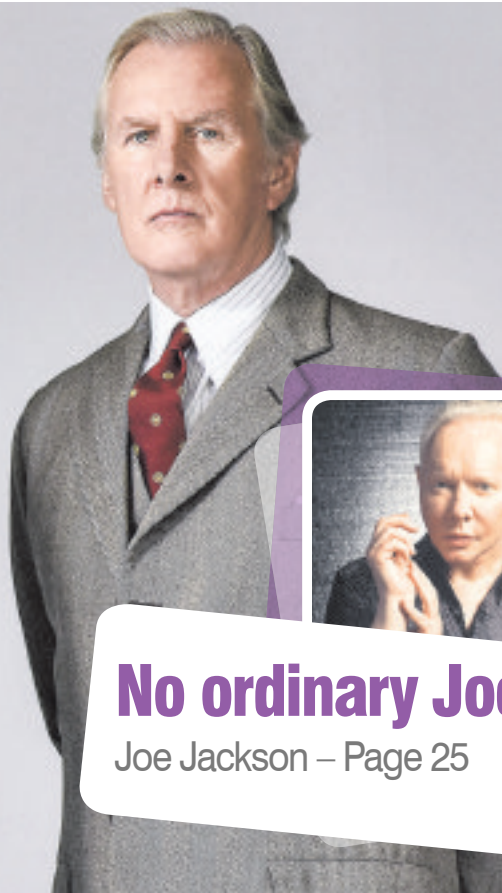
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Spend Valentine's Day evening with the 23-year-old singer-songwriter from Wiltshire who has had success in the UK and Australia with her albums English Rain and Light Up The Dark.
www.o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

NME Awards Tour 2016



Friday, 6pm
O2 Academy, B'ham
The bill is topped by Bloc Party but younger fans will want to see Rat Boy (pictured) sing about video games and fake ID. Drengre and Bugzy Malone also feature.
Visit www.academymusicgroup.com

Ezra Furman



Tuesday, 7pm
Glee Club, B'ham
As seen on Later with Jools Holland, this true original from Chicago, now based in San Francisco, has won fans with his Perpetual Motion People album.
Visit www.glee.co.uk

CBSO Benevolent Fund Concert



Sunday, 3pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
The Ukrainian violinist, Valeri Sokolov, performs with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of John Wilson, in aid of a good cause.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

POP & ROCK

The Sherlocks
Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £8
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Snuff
Sat at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Soul Junction
Sat at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

Blank Parody
Sat at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Terry And Gerry
Wed at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

The World Is A Beautiful Place & I Am No Longer Afraid To Die + Mewithoutyou
Fri at 6pm, £10
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Ezra Furman
Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £12.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The Mersey Beatles: The Beatles Tribute
Sun at 7pm, £16.50
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Jesse Malin
Thu at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Fatherson
Mon at 7pm - 11pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Mystery Jets
Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Graham Bonnet Band
Fri at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Slipknot
Fri at 7pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Heather Small - The Voice Of M People
Wed at 9pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Money
Thu at 8pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Kerrang Tour 2016
Fri at 6.30pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Johnny 2 Bad: UB40 Tribute
Thu at 9.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Hue And Cry
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

NME Awards Tour 2016
Fri at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Up4 The Downstroke
Fri at 9pm, Sat at 9pm, £5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Bars And Melody
Wed at 6pm, £20
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Emilia Martensson
Fri at 8.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Raymond Froggatt
Sun at 8.30pm, £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Gabrielle Aplin
Sun at 7pm, £12.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Sanchez & Romain Virgo
Sun at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Symphony X
Fri at 8.30pm, £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Definitive Elvis Experience
Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

All Time Low
Sat at 6pm, £28.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Willie And The Bandits
Thu at 7.30pm, £10
The Robin, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Christopher Paul Stelling
Wed at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, 1 Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker & John Doyle
Sun at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

The Legends Of American Country Show: Tribute
Mon at 8pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats
Mon at 7pm, £10
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Runrig
Thu at 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

JAZZ & BLUES

The Tim Amann X-Tet
Tue at 8.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Hermes Ensemble
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

The En Suite Electric Band
Fri at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Fidelio Trio
Wed at 7.30pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

BICS 2015/16 Maria Joao Pires And Milos Popovic In Recital
Fri at 1pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Emma Johnson & Mozart's Clarinet Concerto
Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Benevolent Fund Concert
Sun at 3pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Tchaikovsky's Sixth
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Beethoven Piano Concertos
Sat at 3pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Big Band Evening
Sun at 8pm, £2
Great Wyrley Sports & Social Club, Walsall Road, WS6 6DP. Call 01543 502997

THEATRE

The Simon And Garfunkel Story
Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Egg And Spoon (Under 5s)
Tue at 1.30pm, 3.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Lost Things
Thu at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Jersey Boys
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?: Stafford Players
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

20 Stories High And Theatre-Rites: The Broke 'N' Beat Collective
Tue at 5pm, 8pm, Wed at 8pm, mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Of Mice And Men
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Private Lives
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Impossible
Sun at 3pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Single Spies
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Cabaret XXL 2016
Thu at 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Dinosaur Zoo Meet The T Rex
Sat at 1pm, 3.30pm, Sun at 11pm, Mon at 2pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Kite
Tue at 11.30am, 2.30pm, Wed at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Cinderella: Krazy Kat Theatre
Sat at 11.30am - 1.50pm, 2pm - 4.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2pm - 4.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £18.50 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Stags And Hens
Fri at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Dream & A Month In The Country
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £10 - £26
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous
Thu at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jimeoin: Yeehaa
Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slad Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Seeing the funny side of treachery



Nicholas Farrell, Belinda Lang and David Robb in *Single Spies*, being staged at Birmingham Rep picture by Hugo Glendinning

TREACHERY has never been more entertaining than in *Single Spies*.

This double bill of comedies by Alan Bennett is being staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next week.

Single Spies runs from February 17 to 27 and is directed by Olivier Award-nominated Rachel Kavanaugh, the former artistic director of Birmingham Rep.

Bennett's award-winning espionage double bill is a pointedly satirical snapshot of two infamous spies, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt. Both rose to prominent positions in the British establishment but had been recruited as agents by the Soviet Union when students in the 1930s.

An Englishman Abroad chronicles actress Coral Browne's meeting with Burgess as he tried to adapt to life as a Soviet citizen in 1950s Moscow.

A Question of Attribution gives us a glimpse into Blunt's double-life as an art historian to royalty and a Soviet spy, which culminates in a sharp interrogation by the Queen.

An Englishman Abroad and A Question of Attribution stars David Robb – recently seen as Dr Clarkson in *Downton Abbey* – with Belinda Lang and Nicholas Farrell. Tickets are £13.50 to £35, see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.



It's Joe on Fast Forward

SINGER-SONGWRITER Joe Jackson will headline Birmingham's O2 Institute tonight (Thu) to promote his latest album, *Fast Forward*.

Staffordshire-born Jackson found fame in 1979 with *Is She Really Going Out With Him?* and *It's Different For Girls*, and had another major hit with *Steppin' Out* three years later. Now he is touring Europe with his first collection of original songs in seven years. The album was released in October 2 to a host of excellent reviews.

The tour kicked off in Dublin last week and will end in Berlin, Jackson's second home, in March. The career-spanning shows will feature Jackson as his own opening act. He will play a short solo/piano set before bringing out his full band.

Fast Forward was written in four cities: New York, New Orleans, Berlin and Amsterdam. Jackson says: "Mostly it was the musicians that drew me to those places rather than the places themselves, and a few of the songs were kind of obvious. I mean, like 'Kings Of The City' is definitely a New York song, 'If I Could See Your Face' is definitely a Berlin song, and 'Neon Rain', I was thinking about New Orleans when I wrote it."

"You know, if anyone asked me to describe my new album, or how I feel about it or anything like that, I just say it's great. I mean, I have no guarantees that anyone else in the world is gonna think so, so I think it may as well start out with me thinking that."

Telegram kick off tour at Brum pub

LONDON band Telegram, the new darlings of the indie scene, will give local rock fans the chance to find out what the fuss is about at Birmingham's Hare and Hounds tonight (Thu).

Meanwhile, in the Kings Heath pub's other room that night will be fast-rising Mancunian indie rockers Spring King.

Brighton band Fickle Friends, fronted by singer Natassia Shiner, celebrate their new major label deal by playing Stourbridge River Rooms tomorrow (Fri). That's the same night the Kerrang! Tour rolls into Brum with Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM and Bitters at The O2 Institute in Digbeth.

Illusionists ready to do the Impossible

SPECTACULAR magic show Impossible is bringing six top illusionists and magicians to the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday to Saturday, February 20.

The show promises death-defying stunts, grand stage illusions and close-up magic. The line-up includes daredevil escapologist Jonathan Goodwin; from Britain's Got Talent, James More; Cirque du Soleil trickster Lee Thompson; London conjurer and break-dancer Magical Bones; mind reader Chris Cox; and former Young Magician of the Year Ben Hart.

See www.atgtickets.com/birmingham for further details.

Classic rock and acoustic guitar

GRAHAM Bonnet, the voice of Rainbow's *Since You've Been Gone*, brings his band to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow (Fri).

There's a treat for Pink Floyd fans on Saturday at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham when Symphonic Pink Floyd will be performing *Wish You Were Here* plus a selection of other Floyd favourites with a 55 piece orchestra, to the backdrop of Fritz Lang's early sci-fi classic *Metropolis*.

The Counterfeit Stones play Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday. Acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Pete Kent is at the same venue on Wednesday, February 17.

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CHOICE



Ricky Wilson

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7.15pm)
Time is running out for Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson to build their teams, as the contest reaches the sixth and penultimate round of 'blind auditions'. This week, the superstar coaches hear from former UK Eurovision entrant Paul Phoenix, and Mike Berry, the former pop star perhaps better known for his work as an actor in Are You Being Served? and Worzel Gummidge. Also taking to the stage are rocker Rick Snowdon, who aims to impress with his unique voice, and Jordan Gray, who hopes to offer an inspiring example with her performance. Plus, 21-year-old Jan from Cumbria, and Luton-based singer Mia Sylvester, both of whom have auditioned on The Voice in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). 4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 4.50pm).
6.55 BBC News.
7.05 Regional Programme.
7.15 The Voice UK. Rocker Rick Snowdon and would-be inspiration Jordan Gray take to the stage, along with former Voice auditionees Mia Sylvester and Jan in the sixth round of 'blind auditions'.
8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Emma and Joe from Eastbourne, East Sussex, seek to win items from their personal wish list. Plus, Wet Wet Wet join Gaby Roslin for the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.20 Casualty. Valentine's Day arrives in Holby, and for Connie, the day brings a reunion with old flame Sam, who has returned from New York with Connie's estranged daughter Grace. The pair's arrival on the ED is no social call, though, as Sam's new girlfriend Emma has fallen critically ill, and requires urgent surgery. Ethan is furious at a date with a woman who looks remarkably like Zoe. Medical drama, starring Amanda Mealing.
10.10 BBC News: Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Sunderland v Manchester United and Chelsea v Newcastle United, National Lottery Update.
11.55 Film: Meet the Parents. (2000) A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father – a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller.
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: Battle Cry. (1955) 8.45 Film: The Desperados. (1969) 10.10 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.45 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.45 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 2.15 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.30 Earth's Greatest Spectacles. (R)
6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family sample life in the 1960s and with more money to go around, there's more fun to be had. Dad Rob and son Seth take on football legend Trevor Brooking for a game of Subuteo in the dining room, and Daisy and mum Steph meet Sandie Shaw to discover how the decade's daring fashions reflected the growing freedoms and confidence enjoyed by the younger generation. (R)
7.30 Henry VII: Winter King. Documentary in which author Thomas Penn examines the reign of the first Tudor monarch – from his victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 to his death in 1509. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. A daring bid to rescue Walker and Godfrey from a stricken pumping station ends with Mainwaring and his whole platoon trapped and facing the prospect of drowning. (R)
9.00 The Real Marigold Hotel. The group enjoy the final week of their experiment in Jaipur and attend one of the highlights of the Hindu calendar, the Ganesh Chaturti festival. Last in the series. (R)
10.00 Live at the Apollo. Katherine Ryan compers an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing routines by guests Henning Wehn and James Acaster. (R)
10.45 Insert Name Here. Paul Hollywood, Kate Williams, Joe Lycett and Sara Pascoe join Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. Last in the series. (R)
11.15 Film: There Will Be Blood. (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Dano.
1.45 Film: Primeval. (2007) 3.10 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.15 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Signed Stories. (R) 6.55 Sooty. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Looped. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambled!: Jessie. 9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 Film: Columbus. It's All in the Game. (1993)
11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 1.30 Judge Rinder. (R) 2.30 Tipping Point. (R) 3.30 Doc Martin. (R) 4.30 The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.15 ITV News: Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comical viewer-submitted videos, including an old lady cooed in silly string, and a boy's unfortunate encounter with a pelican.
7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. The grand final arrives, and Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara invite the 15 most successful competitors to compete for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. Last in the series.
8.00 Take Me Out. Scott, a mannequin sculptor from London, Leeds-based dentist Keshav, Newcastle electrician Cory and Adam, a labourer from Bedfordshire enter the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women. However, to win a date they must first convince the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy provides an update on last week's couples from the Isle of Fernandos.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. Sacha Baron Cohen joins Jonathan in the studio, in-character as Nobby, the star of his latest comedy outing Grimby. Plus, Stephen Fry, Amy Poehler and Shawn Mendes.
10.20 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 Film: Twins. (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their unknown mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito.
12.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.35 Frostgun Invitational. 7.30 Tenerife Blue Trail. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Warwick. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.00 Come Dine with Me. Businesswoman Tracy hosts the final dinner party in Weston-super-Mare. Her evening includes dance lessons, a black-tie dress code, and steak cooked to order. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on another waterway adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Chervell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West. (R)
8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. New series. The actress is in Devon and Cornwall as she explores more of the nation's smallest communities, visiting a former silver-mining village and a cliff-edge fishing village. Previously seen on More4.
9.00 Film: Escape Plan. (2013) Premiere. A security expert is framed for a crime he did not commit, and sent to an escape-proof prison of his own design. He hatches a plan to break out, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict – who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.
11.20 Film: Predator. (1987) Soldiers on a mission in a Central American jungle is stalked by an invisible alien hunter in search of human prey. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers.
1.20 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.35 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) 4.30 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.20 1001 Things You Should Know. (R) 5.50 How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 9.30 The Saturday Show. 11.30 Funnies! Falls & Flops. (R) 12.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.00 Now That's Funny! (R) 2.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 5.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. The documentary focuses on two disputes that developed from complaints about noise-making. (R)
6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 World War II in Colour. A look at how Nazi U-boats' efforts to sever transatlantic supply lines and the Allied firebombing of German cities affected the course of the conflict as efforts were made to develop new weapons and strategies to bring a rapid end to hostilities. (R)
8.00 Nazi Secret for the Holy Grail. Documentary examining the story of the Nazis' mission to rediscover the lost Aryan race and retrieve their forgotten secrets – including the Holy Grail. (R)
9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Queens Park Rangers v Fulham and Reading v Burnley.
10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Coventry City v Bury and York City v Notts County.
10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The boyfriend of a missing woman implicates her ex-con neighbour – who Stabler helped put in prison 19 years earlier. Guest starring Stephen Rea. (R)
11.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are called on to investigate when a man contacts the police after discovering a dead woman in his bed. Crime drama, starring Christopher Meloni. (R)
12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) 4.50 Divine Designs. (R) 5.20 HouseBusters. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes 7.20 Don't Tell the Bride 8.20 Top Gear 9.20 Film: Meet the Fockers (2004) 11.10 Family Guy 1.00 Him & Her: The Wedding 3.30 The Revolution Will Be Televised 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 How Earth Made Us 8.00 Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered 9.00 Trapped 10.40 Motown at the BBC 11.40 Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend 12.40 Sing's Motown 1.40 Top of the Pops: 1981 3.00 Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned 4.00 Close
ITV2
11.00 Ninja Warrior UK 12.00 Scorpion 1.05 You've Been Framed! Gold 1.35 You've Been Framed! Gold The Next Generation 2.35 Film: Beethoven (1992) 4.25 Catchphrase 5.10 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 7.05 Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) 9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.20 Secret Dates 11.20 Ibiza Weekender 12.20 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 12.50 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands 1.50 Reality Bites 2.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.40 A Touch of Frost 1.50 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 4.00 Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) 6.05 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Blue Murder 1.35 Man About the House 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
12.30 Live Snooker Shootout 5.20 Storage Wars 6.15 Football's Greatest: Zinedine Zidane 6.30 Live Snooker Shootout 11.20 Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) 1.45 River Monsters 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12.30 The Goldbergs 1.30 The Jump 3.05 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Magic Mike (2012) 11.15 Gogglebox 1.25 Virtually Famous 2.10 The It Crowd 3.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.45 Rules of Engagement 4.30 Revenge
Film4
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) 1.00 Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 3.05 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 5.00 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) 6.55 Field of Dreams (1989) 9.00 Ted (2012) 11.05 Evil Dead (2013) 1.00 Intruders (2011) 3.00 Close

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CHOICE



Dylan Hartley

Live Six Nations Rugby Union, 1pm
Italy v England (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the match from Stadio Olimpico in Rome, where the second round of fixtures is brought to a conclusion. England have never lost against the Italians, and when they last travelled to the Eternal City for a Six Nations encounter they recorded an emphatic 52-11 victory, scoring seven tries in the process. The Azzurri will certainly look to improve on that performance, and on their showing in last year's tournament as a whole, when they managed one victory over Scotland but were soundly beaten by the rest of the opposition, which included home losses to Ireland, France and Wales.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** The Truth About Fat. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Nature's Miracle Orphans. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Norfolk Broads, meeting student gamekeepers, learning how to prepare venison, and discovering how a naturalist has helped cranes to return to the area after 400 years. Adam Henson visits a farm where egg production is being carried out on a massive scale. Including **Weather for the Week Ahead**. **8.00** **Call the Midwife**. Dr Turner and Shelagh are at the forefront of the advances in medical technology, and begin a campaign to ensure better respiratory health for their patients. However, Timothy fears their own lifestyle is not good for them and tries to encourage his parents to give up smoking. Violet injures her back and is forced to leave the shop in Fred's hands, a decision that strengthens their relationship but which proves to have other, unforeseen consequences. **9.00** **British Academy Film Awards**. Coverage of the awards ceremony, hosted by Stephen Fry from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Films in the running for awards this year are The Revenant, Ex Machina, Spotlight, The Danish Girl, Amy, The Big Short, Bridge of Spies, Carol, 45 Years, Amy, Brooklyn and The Lobster, while actors nominated for awards include Michael Fassbender, Eddie Redmayne, Cate Blanchett, Maggie Smith, Idris Elba, Christian Bale, Kate Winslet and Julie Walters. **11.00** BBC News. **11.20** Regional Programme. **11.30** **Film: While You Were Sleeping**. (1995) A train-station attendant poses as the fiancée of a comatose man, but ends up in a quandary when she falls for his brother. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.30** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.30** **Film: 84 Charing Cross Road**. (1987) Romantic drama, starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. **3.00** **Film: The Importance of Being Earnest**. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. **4.30** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.15** **Ski Sunday**. Action from the women's downhill race at the World Cup event in Crans Montana, Switzerland, where American Lindsey Vonn will be the focus of much attention. **7.00** **Six Nations Highlights**. John Inverdale is joined by Lewis Moody and Jonathan Davies to present action from the second round of the 2016 championship, featuring France v Ireland at Stade de France, Wales v Scotland at Principality Stadium, and Italy v England at Stadio Olimpico. **8.00** **Greece with Simon Reeve**. Part two of two. Simon travels from the Ionian peninsula into the mountainous north of the country. He meets local people including a group of rebel monks and conservationists caring for an injured bear, and discovers how they are coping with the political crises affecting Greece. **9.00** **Chinese New Year: The Biggest Celebration on Earth**. New series. Series exploring new year celebrations in China, through the personal stories of people involved in traditional celebrations, as well as those whose livelihoods are dependant on the holiday. **10.00** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which were Arsenal v Leicester City, Aston Villa v Liverpool, and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.10** **Film: Tron: Legacy**. (2010) A man searching for his father is sucked into a computer-generated world and must compete in gladiatorial combat. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges and Garrett Hedlund. **1.05** **Film: Steel**. (2002) **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holly City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** **Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes**. (2000) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** **ITV News: Weather**. **12.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Italy v England (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Big Box Little Box. (R) **5.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme: Weather**. **6.15** **ITV News: Weather**. **6.35** **Planet's Got Talent**. Unusual acts including an Indian contestant who gets run over by a steamroller, a Chinese yo-yo master and a dog that sings Whitney Houston songs. Narrated by Warwick Davis. **7.05** **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands**. A fearsome clan of raiders launches a surprise attack on Herot, and Beowulf has to come up with a strategy to outwit his enemies and protect his own tribe. **8.00** **Vera**. DCI Stanhope and her team, including new recruit DC Hicham Cherradi, travel to a remote country house when the woman looking after it is killed. No sooner have they arrived than a second body is discovered. Vera discovers the two victims met the night before their deaths, and goes in search of a connection between them. Forensics evidence reveals that one was definitely present when the other died. **10.00** **ITV News: Weather**. **10.15** **Roosters**. Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee officers in Lincolnshire Police. (R) **11.15** **Premiership Rugby Union**. Action from the 12th round of fixtures, including Northampton Saints v London Irish, Newcastle Falcons v Leicester Tigers, Sale Sharks v Exeter Chiefs and Saracens v Wasps. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** **ITV** **Nightscreen**. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35** **Film: The Harry Hill Movie**. (2013) Premiere. Comedy, starring Harry Hill. **4.20** The Simpsons. (R) **4.50** The Simpsons. (R) **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.40** **Film: Mr Popper's Penguins**. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **7.30** **The Jump**. Davina McCall presents the third stage of the winter sports challenge as the celebrity contestants face their fastest challenge so far in the speed ski event. The losing competitor from each race will then have to take part in the Jump to decide which of them will be eliminated from the contest. **9.00** **Deutschland 83**. Double bill. Moritz receives a shocking order, and realises the extent of his superiors' paranoia when a training exercise in the West is mistaken for a preemptive attack. He returns to the East in a bid to prevent a war and finds himself an outcast on both sides of the Iron Curtain, but risks his life to save Yvonne from the Stasi. Ingrid comes to Thomas's rescue, and Alex is forced to confront his own demons. In German. Last in the series. **10.45** **Film: Predator 2**. (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton. **12.45** **Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic**. Christian Jessen, Pixie McKenna and Dawn Harvie revisit patients from previous clinics to catch up with the state of their health. (R) **1.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Undercover Boss USA. Catherine Monson, president and CEO of Fastsigns International, goes undercover to learn more about the manufacturing side of the company. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. In this bite-sized edition, Kirstie Allsopp competes in the Something New from Something Old competition at the Royal Wales Show, creating vintage paper jewellery. (R) **5.05** Beat My Build. Renovation challenge in which two builders are pitted against one another to overshadow their competitor's work and make the most profit from their project. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.25** Lazy Town. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.20** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** **Film: Mr Holland's Opus**. (1995) Drama, starring Richard Dreyfuss. **3.20** **Film: Housewife**. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn. **5.20** **Film: What a Girl Wants**. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. **7.25** **5 News Weekend**. **7.30** **Film: Jumper**. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L Jackson. Edited for language. **9.00** **Film: Homefront**. (2013) Premiere. A drug enforcement agent quits his job and relocates to a small town hoping to protect his daughter from the violent world he has to deal with. However, he is forced back into his old life when he finds his new home has a criminal underbelly dominated by a narcotics kingpin. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham, James Franco and Winona Ryder. Edited for language. **11.05** **Film: Revolver**. (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta. **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Prison Brides. The phenomenon of weddings conducted inside prisons. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Great Scientists. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.10 The Voice UK 8.30 EE British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet 9.00 **Film: Little Fockers** (2010) 10.30 Russell Howard's Good News 11.05 Family Guy 11.50 American Dad! 12.10 Family Guy 12.30 Russell Howard's Good News 1.00 Professor Green: Hidden and Homeless 2.00 Siblings 3.00 Murder Games: The Life and Death of Breck Bednar 4.00 Close **BBC Four**
7.00 Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole 8.00 The Sky at Night 8.30 Canals – The Making of a Nation 9.00 Storyville: Decadence & Downfall – The Shah of Iran's Ultimate Party 10.15 **Film: Therese Desqueyroux** (2012) 12.00 Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark 1.00 Canals – The Making of a Nation 1.30 Rock 'n' Roll America 2.30 Sounds of the Eighties 3.00 Singer-Songwriters at the BBC 4.00 Close **ITV2**
11.55 Take Me Out 1.05 Take Me Out – The Gossip 2.10 **Film: The Perfect Man** (2005) 4.15 **Film: Legally Blonde** (2001) 6.10 Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special 7.15 **Film: Along Came Polly** (2004) 9.00 Ibiza Weekender 10.00 Love Fix 11.00 **Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall** (2008) 1.15 Release the Hounds 2.05 **Film: The Funniest Animals** 2.30 Teleshopping **ITV3**
12.25 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 1.35 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 3.55 Lewis 6.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant 9.00 Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India 10.00 Mrs Biggs 11.00 **Film: The Constant Gardener** (2005) 1.30 Ghostboat 2.45 A Touch of Frost 4.30 On the Buses 5.20 Judge Judy 5.45 ITV4 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.30 Pawn Stars 1.30 Live Snooker Shootout 4.15 Storage Wars: Texas 5.10 The Classic Car Show 6.15 Goals of the 90s 8.30 Live Snooker Shootout 9.20 **Film: Sudden Impact** (1983) 11.45 **Film: Mercury Rising** (1998) 2.00 Ax Men 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping **E4**
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me 2.30 **Film: Fury Vengeance** (2010) 4.20 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 4.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Inbetweeners 1.10 The T Crowd 2.10 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.55 The Inbetweeners 3.45 Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (2005) 3.40 Anna Karenina (2012) 6.25 Twilight (2008) 9.00 Kick-Ass (2011) 11.15 Compliance (2012) 1.00 Wild Things (1998) 3.15 Close



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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Trespass, Channel 5, 11pm

A couple are held hostage in their own home by four masked criminals, who want the contents of their safe. The situation forces them to examine the secrets they are hiding from each other, while the criminals are also driven to reflect on the events that have set them on this course of action. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman. (2011)

TUESDAY

The Restless Breed, BBC2, 11am

A former secret service agent's son journeys to the frontier, hellbent on avenging his father's murder at the hands of outlaws. Western, with Scott Brady. (1957)

WEDNESDAY

Because I Said So, Channel 4, 1.05am

A meddling mother becomes increasingly worried that her youngest daughter, who has a string of short-lived relationships under her belt, is doomed to fail in matters of the heart. She places a carefully worded ad on the internet for a suitable man, but her interference results in a series of misunderstandings. Comedy drama, starring Diane Keaton. (2007)



Trespass, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

The Wind and the Lion, BBC2, 11.10am

An American woman and her son are seized by a Moroccan chieftain in the 1900s, sparking an international incident. While President Roosevelt works on a plan to ensure their safe return, the hostage begins to sympathise with her captor's cause as they get caught up in a conflict with German forces. Period adventure, with Sean Connery. (1975)

FRIDAY

Backdraft, ITV, 11.10pm

The two sons of a fireman who died in the line of duty follow him into the profession. However, a feud develops between them because the elder brother is convinced his sibling is not up to the job - until a mission to uncover the identity of a serial arsonist gives him the chance to prove his worth. Action drama, starring Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro and Donald Sutherland. (1991)

Cuba gets caught up in controversial case

Throughout most of 1995, the US was hooked by the lengthy, televised trial of OJ Simpson, the American football legend who stood accused of murdering his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

It was even dubbed the 'trial of the century', which may seem a little overblown until you consider how the case seemed to raise much bigger questions than whether or not Simpson was innocent, touching on race and celebrity culture.

And it's becoming a talking point all over again thanks to the new drama series The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, which has been picking up rave reviews since it began airing in the US earlier this month.

Now the show is coming to the UK, although given the intense media coverage Simpson received back in the 1990s, some viewers may be wondering what there is left to say.

Luckily, the BBC has thought of that. Sue Deeks, Head of BBC Programme Acquisition, says: "I am so excited for BBC viewers to see this series. The

People v OJ Simpson is a fascinating and totally absorbing dramatisation of a case seared into the public consciousness. It is a case that you might think you know all about - but believe me, you don't know the half of it..."

In particular, the series looks at the legal teams who were battling to either convict or acquit Simpson, showing how the prosecution's over-confidence, some shrewd work by the defence team, and the Los Angeles Police Department's history with the city's African-American community all played a part in the eventual verdict.

If the fascinating true-life story wasn't enough to hook you in, the series is executive produced by Ryan Murphy, whose previous credits include Glee and American Horror Story, and boasts an incredible cast, including Cuba Gooding Jr as OJ Simpson, and John Travolta and David Schwimmer as defence attorneys Robert Shapiro and Robert 'father of Kim' Kardashian.

The cast are all aware of the responsibility involved in portraying real-life characters, but they have chosen to approach it in different ways.

Selma Blair, who plays Kardashian's wife Kris, met her real-life inspiration, and struck up a friendship - Kris even volunteered to dig out her 1990s clothes for the actress to wear on screen.

Chief prosecutor Marcia Clark didn't make actress Sarah Paulson a similar offer - instead she apologised that Paulson was going to have to adopt her hairstyle, which came in for a surprising amount of comment during the trial.

However, one person who didn't want to meet their real-life counterpart was Gooding Jr. He told the New York Post: "I didn't reach out to [Simpson's] kids. I didn't reach out to him. I didn't want a definitive opinion of his guilt or innocence."

But he has said that the series has brought it home to him that whatever you believe, the Goldmans and the Browns still suffered a devastating loss, and should not be forgotten.

The first episode offers another reminder, as the victims' bodies are discovered. The LAPD quickly link the killings to Simpson, although his fame leaves them unsure how to proceed.



Cuba Gooding Jr stars in The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The X-Files

Channel 5, 9pm

Mulder and Scully arrive at Nugenics Technology to investigate the suicide of a scientist, only to find that the department of defence has put the facility on lockdown. They uncover evidence that extreme genetic experimentation has been going on for decades, breeding subjects who possess unexpected and dangerous powers - and Scully begins to wonder whether Nugenics had anything to do with her own pregnancy 15 years previously. Sci-fi drama, starring Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny.

Crashing

Channel 4, 10pm

Anthony and Lulu look for Kate and while their search takes a number of unexpected turns, the object of their quest drowns her sorrows with Fred - who receives some valuable advice from Jessica. Colin and Melody attempt to get back to normal, until he suffers an unfortunate incident, and Sam's life begins to unravel as he lashes out at those closest to him. Comedy, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge, with Jonathan Bailey, Julie Dray, Amit Shah, Damien Molony and Louise Ford. Last in the series.

TUESDAY

It's Not Rocket Science

ITV, 8pm

Over the years there have been plenty of fun science strands, from Don't Ask Me in the 1970s, to more recent offerings such as Brainiac. Now ITV are unveiling their latest take on the genre, and with the presence of Ben Miller, Rachel Riley and Romesh Ranganathan, you know you're in safe hands. In the first offering, Olympic hopeful Adam Gemili races against a Red Arrow, Rachel travels through a wall of fire at 450 degree centigrade, and Ben uses the power of Joey Essex's brain to drive a car.

WEDNESDAY

One Child

BBC2, 9pm

It was announced last year that China was to end its one-child policy, but the decades-long law and its effects provide the starting point for this three-part drama. Mei (Harry Potter actress Katie Leung) was adopted from China as a baby, and has enjoyed a happy childhood in the UK with little knowledge of her roots. So, she's understandably stunned when a

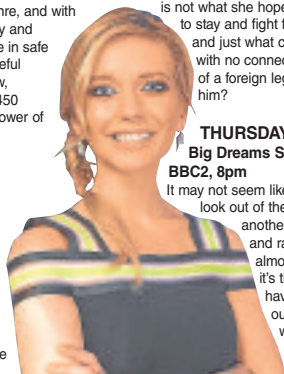
Chinese journalist contacts her to say that her birth mother needs her help because the brother Mei never even knew existed is on Death Row for a crime he didn't commit. Keeping the full extent of the story from her adoptive parents, Mei flies out to her birthplace, but the first meeting with her mother is not what she hoped for. Will she decide to stay and fight for her sibling anyway, and just what can a young woman with no connections or knowledge of a foreign legal system do to free him?

THURSDAY

Big Dreams Small Spaces

BBC2, 8pm

It may not seem like it when you take a look out of the window to see yet another day of cold, wind and rain - but spring is almost upon us. Therefore it's time for many, if you haven't already, to get out in the garden. But what do you do if your land is a tad too small to create the ambitious



It's Not Rocket Science, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

outdoor setting you have always dreamed of? Well never fear, Monty Don is returning with a new series of the show in which he helps more amateur horticulturists transform their small or average-sized plots into something extraordinary. In Salisbury, newly engaged couple Glenn and Zoe want a new garden to produce flowers for their wedding. But unfortunately, their small, sloping plot seems completely unusable. Meanwhile, in Barnet, Monty gets to work on an overgrown allotment that owner Nighat wants to use as a site for keeping bees.

FRIDAY

Shetland

BBC1, 9pm

Dedicating an entire six-episode series to one story is working a treat. Usually, cases whip by in the blink of an eye, catering for viewers with short attention spans in the process. But this run of Shetland is more old-school, with time given to absorb what is happening as well as the subtleties of the tale and its characters. We're now looking forward to the penultimate edition, during which Perez must find a way to deal with what has happened to Tosh if he is to successfully conclude the case surrounding the deaths of Robbie Morton and Michael Thompson - but that proves to be far from easy.




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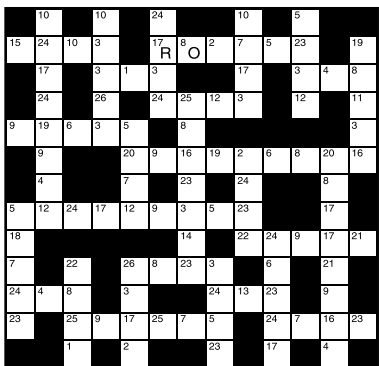
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BRAIN GYM No.364

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Y	L	R	U	V	Z	M	P	E	W	G	H	C
J	O	T	K	F	A	B	S	I	N	D	Q	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

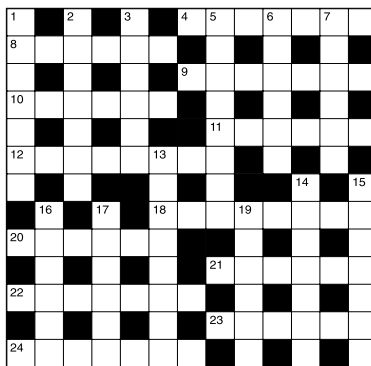
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Forsake an orchestra when playing (7)
- Something to eat for a canine with a high temperature? (3,3)
- Rib male - it's more soothing! (7)
- Keep near it (6)
- Presumably he won't let anything slip out (6)
- Father takes hire charge in his fatherly role (8)
- Roasting at the keyboard? (8)
- Make headlong progress in one's job? (6)
- Trivial insult (6)
- Join devout company in plenty (7)
- Ring the bells again - get rid of the law! (6)
- Law they break becoming rich (7)

Down

- He is in the wrong party to get proper treatment (7)
- Monument about right height (7)
- A proposal to get things moving? (6)
- The difference between him and his workmates is striking (8)
- A figure that makes one lose all feeling? (6)
- The old boy got a look and did as he was told (6)
- Comprehensive even if short and unrefined (8)
- Circle to allow curl (7)
- Imposing let-up in support (7)
- Plea or word of honour (6)
- Lie and contradiction (6)
- Please become dead to the world (6)



Quick Clues:

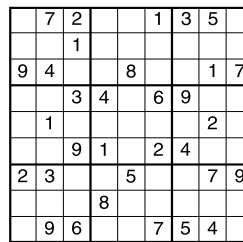
Across

- At mid-point (7)
- Inhuman (6)
- Insult (7)
- Demure (6)
- Caresse (6)
- Sundry (7)
- Hand-gun (6)
- Quill (7)

Down

- Pardon (7)
- Theme (7)
- Zodiac sign (6)
- Abounding (8)
- Enthusiasm (6)
- Yearly (6)
- Estrange (8)
- Greed (7)
- Aged (7)
- Strict (6)
- Obvious (6)
- Foreign (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	8	1	7	6	2	9	3
3	1	9	8	2	5	6	7	4
6	2	7	3	5	9	1	4	8
4	5	3	2	8	1	6	7	9
9	7	6	5	3	4	1	2	8
2	8	1	7	6	9	4	3	5
8	3	4	6	2	7	9	5	1
1	9	2	4	5	3	7	8	6
7	6	5	9	1	8	3	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shop windows; 9 Eve; 10 Town-crier; 11 Sial; 13 Raiment; 14 Clasp; 16 Regime; 18 Network; 19 Stead; 20 Spaghetti; 21 Bow; 22 Set to rights. Down: 2 Hoe; 3 Petal; 4 Inward; 5 Decline; 6 White wine; 7 Sea-sickness; 8 Written down; 12 Smart pace; 15 Prophet; 17 Skater; 19 Sling; 21 Bit. QUICK - Across: 1 Happy medium; 9 Rod; 10 Newspaper; 11 Appal; 13 Reserve; 14 Normal; 16 Attack; 18 Private; 19 Widen; 20 Eliminate; 21 One; 22 Undertaking. Down: 2 Aid; 3 Penal; 4 Mowers; 5 Deposit; 6 Upper hand; 7 Great-nephew; 8 Free-thinker; 12 Perdition; 15 Avarice; 17 Depart; 19 Wreck; 21 Own.

Quiz

- What is a cicatrice?
- In which year did Enid Blyton die?
- What is the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan?
- What was Ho Chi-Minh city known as prior to 1976?
- What nationality was the composer Georges Auric?
- What sort of bridge is the Forth rail bridge?
- What was the soldier Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar more commonly known as?
- How many lbs in a cwt?
- In which year did Edward VIII die?
- Approximately how many million Model T Ford cars were manufactured?

Last week's solutions:

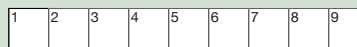
- Quiz: 1 India; 2 Francois Truffaut; 3 A fish; 4 German; 5 Ernest Rutherford; 6 Port-au-Prince; 7 Nebuchadnezzar; 8 17th; 9 Mg; 10 1980.

Niner: DEPARTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 957183 gives an entertainer,
123548 gives a clergyman,
4356788 gives a novice.



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On the move – travelling around by cable car



The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building



A must visit – cycle across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge



Streets are packed with different shops

Golden! Foodies will definitely leave their heart in San Francisco

IN the words of the great Tony Bennett, 'I left my heart in San Francisco'.

A flying visit will leave you breathless, from the sights, the tastes and from slogging up and down those famous hills.

Thank heavens for the equally famous trolley buses, which combine charm with practicality when getting around a city that is very well served for public transport.

There is just so much to see, from the Golden Gate Bridge and its park to Fisherman's Wharf, the shopping delights of Union Square, Haight Ashbury (home of the hippies) and Alcatraz, the famous island prison in San Francisco Bay.

And getting there from the West Midlands is a breeze, flying from Birmingham to New York's Newark Airport and then on

Simon Penfold reports

to San Francisco itself with United Airlines. It takes about a day, and your body clock will be all over the place, but the flights are punctual and very comfortable indeed.

Travelling business class, with good food and seats that turn into beds, takes any pain out of the process.

Shopping

Book into a hotel and head off to check out the late night shopping in nearby Union Square – Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue – and a few local beers at Sam's Cable Car Lounge.

Quality food is a signature of San Francisco. This city has more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the US of A. It must be possible to find a bad meal in San Francisco, but I didn't.

And then there is the beer. America has discovered the joys of really good craft ale.

The food and drink is just part of what sets San Francisco apart from just about anywhere else in the United States. There's an individuality about the place.

Our hotel captured that individuality. The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building just up Powell Street from Union Square. It has style and character as well as all mod cons, and its name is a reminder that the first Westerner to discover this place was the famous Elizabethan sailor. Presumably because of this links the hotel's doormen are dressed in beefeater outfits.

There is so much to see and do in this city that a visit to the websites run by Visit California and San Francisco Travel are a must. One of the most useful things you can do is sort out a CityPASS ticket booklet, which gives a week's unlimited use of cable cars

and the local Muni transport system, access to attractions such as the Aquarium of the Bay and even a one-hour cruise of the Bay.

For any movie goer, of course, San Francisco is the city where Steve McQueen raced around the streets in Bullitt. And there's the windy Lombard Street with its eight hairpin bends that has featured in virtually every film ever made in the city.

Aside from the movies, there are hotels, galleries and places to go and stand and stare. One place that cannot be missed is Alcatraz. Boat tours run out to the island several times a day. One of the world's most legendary prisons, it is a gloomy and oppressive but in remarkably good condition considering the last prisoner left in 1963. On a brighter note you can hire a cycle and ride across the Golden Gate Bridge. The views are stunning and, in any visit to San Francisco, a visit to the bridge is a must.

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"The 'from' price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure for details.

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here, often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe. The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again.

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital.

There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

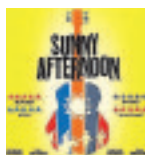
Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.⁹⁵

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



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Four-bedroomed detached family house near to park



THIS four-bedroomed detached residence at Yarnborough Hill, off Love Lane, Oldswinford, is close to Mary Stevens Park.

With a host of original features, it is for sale through Taylors at £369,950.

It has an entrance hall, a reception hall, a cloak cupboard and WC, a sitting room with a combined dining area with the sitting area having an Adam-style fireplace with gas fire, a formal dining area with a bow window, a conservatory with tiled flooring, kitchen with an integrated larder fridge and integrated freezer, washing machine, ceramic hob, electric double oven and grill plus hood. There is a gallery landing, bedroom one with en-suite, three further bedrooms, shower room. The drive is block paved, there is a double garage and splendid rear garden.

Contact Taylors on (01384) 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Village residence is on a generous plot

A PERIOD three to four-bedroomed detached residence on a generous plot, 'Little Steadings' Hyde Lane, Kinver, has two reception rooms with a breakfast kitchen plus en-suite to the master bedroom. It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £375,000.

In an elevated rear position backing onto playing fields, Potters Cross is a few minutes walk from the property and has a small collection of shops. Kinver is a vibrant village with a wealth of amenities, good pubs and restaurants and close to beautiful countryside including Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses.

Contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit www.leeshaw.com



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PROPERTY

£349,950 tag for spacious three-bedroom bungalow



THIS three-bedrooom detached bungalow in Greaves Close, Walsall, is spacious.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £349,950.

With gas fired central heating and double glazing it includes an impressive through lounge/dining room, breakfast kitchen, bedroom one with an en-suite, two further bedrooms and delightful rear garden.

Within a short distance of all local amenities including Walsall town centre. It is also ideally located for commuting with easy access to the M5 and M54. Call 01922 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



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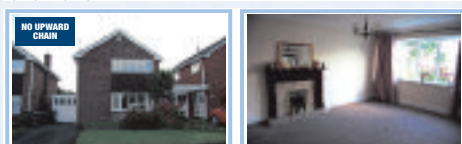
73 LONGMEADOW DRIVE, SEDGLEY O/A £279,950

- Well proportioned three bedroom family home
- Enviably positioned on the popular Northway housing estate
- Extended breakfast kitchen, lounge, sitting room with dining area
- Wide garden plot with wooded area and open fields to the rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



LAND AT TIVDALE STREET/DUDLEY PORT, TIPTON O/A £210,000

- Level site with work shop fronting onto Tivdale Street
- Outline planning consent for three bedroom houses & block of five apartments
- Planning Application Number DC/14/57543-Sandwell MBC
- The site occupies a convenient location with access to motorway links
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



3 HARVINGTON ROAD, COSELEY £169,950

- Detached house with three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, extended dining room, utility
- Well maintained and attractively presented accommodation
- Occupying a pleasant and convenient location
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



ST JAMES STREET LOWER GORNAL £189,950

- Five new build detached bungalows with two bedrooms
- Traditionally built to a high standard with two parking spaces per plot
- Fully fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, fully fitted family bathroom
- Spacious living/dining room with french window opening onto landscaped garden
- High levels of insulation and choice of fitted carpets
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-PREDICTED EPC TBC



69 DIBDALE ROAD O/A £130,000

- DUDLEY
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended accommodation
- Excellent view to the rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



LAND FRONTING FIRS STREET £110,000

- DUDLEY
- Development Site
- Subject to Local Authority consent
- Rectangular area of land
- Approximately 0.134 acres
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



9 NORTHWAY, SEDGLEY O/A £279,950

- Extended detached family home with four bedrooms
- Bedroom one with en-suite shower room & walk in wardrobe/dressing room
- Completely renovated & extensively improved in recent years
- Extended kitchen, ground floor shower room, spacious family bathroom
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



15 DAFFODIL CLOSE £132,950

- SEDGLEY
- Modern semi detached
- Three bedrooms
- Unfitted lounge
- Dining kitchen
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



15 DUNOON DRIVE £49,950

- WOLVERHAMPTON
- Modern coach house apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Open plan lounge & kitchen
- Parking space, communal grounds
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



75 NORTHWAY £179,950

- SEDGLEY
- Well presented link detached house
- Three bedrooms, through lounge & dining room
- Well proportioned accommodation with gas central heating
- Situated on the popular Northway housing estate
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

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Detached family home has character features



THIS detached family home in Robert Street, Lower Gornal, is filled with character.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £179,950.

Renovated and extended, it has double glazing and central heating, an entrance hall, a lounge, cottage-style kitchen with range style oven, three bedrooms with staircase from largest bedroom to converted loft space, en-suite shower/WC. There is a gated garden and to the rear an expansive patio area with lawn and wooden shed.

Contact Trinity Property on (01384) 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net website.



www.bakersproperty.co.uk

GORNAL BROOKDALE



Immaculate semi detached property refurbished to a high specification and within walking distance of the village centre. Luxury accommodation comprises-drive and parking to reception hall entrance-lounge-formal dining area-fitted kitchen-integrated appliances-three bedrooms-fitted furniture to master-bathroom-gas c/htg/double glazed-gardens-cedarwood garden room.

OFFERS BASED ON: £129,950

GORNAL THORNLEIGH



- Detached
- Sought after location
- Hall Lounge
- Formal dining area
- Cloakroom Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas C/HTG Double glazed
- Landscaped gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £209,950

THE STRAITS



- HIGH ARCAL ROAD
- Detached bungalow
- Individual design, Extended
- Hall, Lounge
- Study/Dining room
- Cloakroom, Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms, Bathroom
- Garage
- Gas C/htg/Double glazed
- Landscaped gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £244,950

GORNAL STICKLEY LANE



- Semi detached
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility Three bedrooms
- Bathroom Gas C/HTG
- Double glazed

OFFERS BASED ON: £124,950

GORNAL MUSK LANE



- Detached
- Cottage Style
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Sitting Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas C/htg/Double glazed
- Sizeable Corner Plot

OFFERS BASED ON: £149,950

GORNAL WOOD ROAD



- Semi-detached family home in popular location. Accommodation comprises hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, private gardens and parking.

OFFERS BASED ON: £117,500

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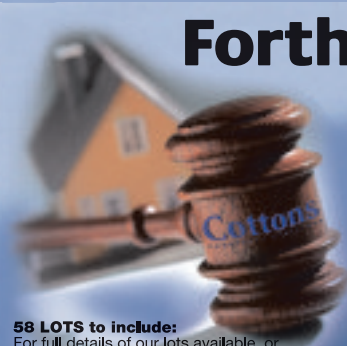
FLAT 2 BELL COURT, BELL STREET SOUTH, BRIERLEY HILL



FLAT 5 BELL COURT, BELL STREET SOUTH, BRIERLEY HILL



FLAT 7 BELL COURT, BELL STREET SOUTH, BRIERLEY HILL



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98 BRETTCELL LANE, AMBLECOTE, STOURBRIDGE



26 BELLE VUE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS



68 BLANDFORD ROAD, QUINTON



FLAT 8 BELL COURT, BELL STREET SOUTH, BRIERLEY HILL



FLAT 9 BELL COURT, BELL STREET SOUTH, BRIERLEY HILL

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DUDLEY, Yarner Close, Milking Bank

ENVIABLY SITUATED at head of cul-de-sac with delightful rear garden! Meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached residence briefly comprising: porch, hall, store, 16'4" lounge, dining room, conservatory, refitted breakfast kitchen with various integrated appliances, utility room, cloaks. Principal bedroom with built in wardrobes & shower room en suite, three further generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom. Garage, landscaped garden with patio & decking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, 'The Poplars', Wansbeck Walk

FASTIDIOUSLY MAINTAINED! Tremendously upgraded and appreciably spacious freehold gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed detached family home in favoured cul de sac. Accommodation includes entrance porch, traditional reception hall, store, reapointed cloak room, elegant 18ft lounge with bay, dining room, CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen (with many integrated appliances) and matching refitted utility section. FOUR BEDROOMS (principle with fitted units & en suite), reapointed bathroom, DOUBLE GARAGE, block paved drive, landscaped secluded gardens. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.



KINGSWINFORD, Dunlin Close

Superbly located at the head of this small exclusive cul-de-sac, just off Ploverdale Crescent, upon highly sought after 'Sandpipers', this DISTINCTIVE & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an impressively spacious and expensively appointed FOUR BEDROOM layout with an EN-SUITE, enhanced by a CONSERVATORY, plus a driveway, GARAGE and a professionally landscaped garden. EPC D

Offers in the region of £275,000

Offers in the Region of 254,950

£244,500



PENSNETT, Cygnet Lane

THIS SUBSTANTIAL, EXTENDED, DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Garage, Fantastic Garden & FURTHER SAUNA ROOM which could alternatively be used as a 4th BEDROOM. EPC D

£219,950



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

Situated in the extremely popular area of The Straits Lower Gornal, this attractively modernised detached property offers superb family living accommodation which benefits from entrance hallway, living room, well-appointed kitchen-diner, guest w/c, utility, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, good-sized re-fitted shower-room, integrated garage, gas centrally heated, double glazed, enclosed rear garden. This house is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £214,950



SEDGLEY, Warren Drive, Northway

Stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached with tremendous distant views comprising: hallway, cloakroom & further store, 26ft through living/dining room with doors out to garden, kitchen with an extensive range of units & various integrated appliances FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with en suite), bathroom. Carport, large garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £210,000



SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway

ENVIALE LOCATION! Backing onto fields and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a conscientiously maintained, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated detached with tremendous potential in favoured 'backwater' location. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, generous garage, gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £204,500



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed dormer style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises: hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £189,950...NOW £187,500



SEDGLEY, Turls Hill Road

EXTENDED Edwardian gas centrally heated, recently double glazed & recently re-roofed semi-detached conveniently situated within walking distance of all the Sedgley amenities and also open fields comprising: Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Upgraded Kitchen, THREE bedrooms, bathroom. Parking to front, former garage, secluded garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000



SEDGLEY, Corve View, Northway

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH, tremendously upgraded, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS in quiet cul de sac. 'Transformed' by present vendors over the years the property comprises: lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with fine range of 'birch' effect units. TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom with contemporary white suite, SUBSTANTIAL GARAGE, sheltered 'low maintenance' garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £140,000



BRIERLEY HILL, Madison Avenue

THIS HUGE, IMPRESSIVE, THREE STOREY, THREE/FOUR BEDROOM End Townhouse comprises: Hall, Guest WC, Large Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Room/Bedroom Four, Lounge, Bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS (master with en-suite), allocated Parking, Garden. EPC: C

£139,950



WOODSETTON, Park Close

REALISTICALLY PRICED! Gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached modernised in the past but offering further potential set at head of cul de sac in popular convenient district. Accommodation includes reception hall, store, lounge, dining room, kitchen (with integrated appliances) three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), re-tiled bathroom with white suite, off road parking, rear garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £136,500



PENSNETT, Bryce Road

THIS WELL PRESENTED, LARGE, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Contemporary Breakfast Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY, THREE BEDROOMS, Modern White Suite Bathroom, Large Driveway, Substantial Garden. EPC D

£125,000



LANESFIELD, Ward Grove

A delightfully presented and well maintained BUNGALOW which is conveniently situated in the Lanesfield area and benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO bedrooms, living room, fitted kitchen, shower room, good-sized enclosed rear garden off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Roach Close

THIS RATHER LOVELY, SEMI-DETACHED HOME would make a PERFECT FIRST TIME BUY or ASTUTE BUY-TO-LET INVESTMENT and comprises: Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Secluded Rear Garden. EPC: E

£109,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Waldron Avenue

THIS SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely Lounge, Delightful Conservatory, Splendid Kitchen Diner, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Family Shower Room & Large Rear Garden. EPC: F

£109,950



PENSNETT, Chapel Street

THIS DELIGHTFULLY RE-DECORATED & MODERNISED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely Lounge, Spacious Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom & HUGE REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC E

£105,000



BROCKMOOR, Wilson Road

Encompassing a HUGE REAR GARDEN with additional land extending adjacent to the property, THIS WELL PRESENTED and TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, House Bathroom & Driveway. EPC:

£99,950

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47 Lewis Street, Bilston
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9 Ashfield Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Saturday 20th February 01:45pm



9 Tanfield Road, Dudley
4 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £59,000 - £69,000

Saturday 13th February 04:00pm



30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Saturday 20th February 10:45am



46 Newton Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Saturday 13th February 12:15pm



16 Windsor Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Saturday 13th February 10:00am



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Saturday 13th February 01:45pm



156 Hilton Road, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 13th February 01:00pm



19 Veronica Av., Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000

Saturday 20th February 02:30pm



2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 20th February 11:45am



20 Hereford Street, Walsall
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Saturday 20th February 12:30pm



35 Wood Lane, Willenhall
4 Bedroom Link Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Saturday 20th February 10:00am



23 Harbeck Avenue, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 13th February 02:30pm



31 Langley Avenue, Bilston
4 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 20th February 03:45pm



6 Ely Grove, Quinton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Saturday 13th February 11:30am



11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046.



*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots

**For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

Four-bedroomed home with plenty of parking



PROBABLY on the best plot of the development, 90 John Corbett Drive, Amblecote, is a four-bedroomed detached home with off-road parking for a number of vehicles and open views across fields.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £259,950 with no chain including the remainder of an NHBC building warranty. Spacious accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge with stairs off and under-stairs storage, kitchen/diner, twin electric oven, gas hob and extractor hood, a utility, guest WC, ground floor bedroom or dining room, master bedroom with dressing area and en suite, two further bedrooms (one with built-in cupboard) and a bathroom. To the rear is a private lawned garden with a shed.

Contact The Property Shop on (01384) 444645 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

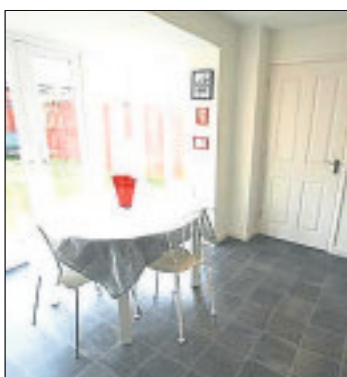


Outstanding family house with annexe

AN OUTSTANDING family home with an annexe and views, this four-bedroomed property in Tansley Hill Avenue, Dudley, is in a sought after area. It is for sale through Your Move at £179,999.

It has a lounge, spacious kitchen/dining room, sitting room and contemporary shower room/WC with stairs leading to four good-sized bedrooms and modern family bathroom. Externally the property further benefits from driveway parking to the front whilst to the rear it has a garden including a decking area and a large detached double glazed annexe with en suite/WC.

For further information contact Your Move on (01384) 455000 or visit www.your-move.co.uk



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4 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £175,000 plus



49 Flavell Street, Woodsetton, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000



21 Tenacre Lane, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £55,000 plus



34 Churchfield Avenue, Tipton
3 Bedroom First Floor Apartment
Guide: £28,000 - £33,000



Site Park Lane West, Tipton
Potential Development Site For A Single Dwelling, Subject To Planning
Guide: £20,000-£25,000



*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots

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SEDGLEY
Gospel End Street

NEW

An OUTSTANDING and delightful mid terrace style cottage which offers original character features. Having two bedrooms and walking distance to Sedgley Village. Being tastefully decorated and presented to a high standard. This spacious and welcoming village home has been updated throughout, with a modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Also benefiting from a new replacement heating system, under floor heating and windows. To the rear there is a paved patio and rear access. With turning Courtside views EPC-D

£149,950

GORNAL
Robert Street

NEW

A splendid, character-filled, tastefully renovated and extended family home in a popular location. Entrance hall (full length) leads to lounge at the front, and cottage-style kitchen with range style oven to the rear, access to the rear patio and garden, and stairs to the first floor. The open landing on the first floor leads to three good sized bedrooms, converted loft space and en-suite shower/bath with three view windows. Landed area to the rear. Viewing highly recommended. Freehold. EPC-TBC

£179,950

WOLLASTON
Bridgnorth Road

NEW

A splendid family home with great character. Off road parking to rear with single garage. Mainly double glazed, centrally heated, alarmed. Two reception rooms. Modern fitted kitchen. Walking distance of local shops and amenities. Viewing highly recommended!

£199,950

DUDLEY
Russells Hall Road

NEW

A semi detached three bed house on the popular Russells Hall Estate with off road parking. With lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen (with access to rear garden). The first floor landing has an airing cupboard with doors off to three bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. Outside the property there is a landscaped area beside the drive, access the side and rear of the property, patio area and terraced lawn area. Freehold, no upward chain, available to view now. EPC-D

£125,000

DUDLEY
Cromwell Drive

NEW

A traditional semi-detached three bed house in a popular street. With lounge, a fitted kitchen with a door to the conservatory which has a downstairs WC off. Three good sized bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes. There is a shower/wet room/WC. Outside to the front there is a landscaped area with alloy giving side access to the rear garden. To the rear there is a patio area leading to the rear garden with a landscaped area and shrub borders. No upward chain, viewing recommended. EPC-TBC

£124,950

WEDNESBURY
Goldby Drive

NEW

Ideal for investors - a purpose-built modern first floor apartment with double glazing and central heating, comprising entrance hall with secure entry, open plan kitchen/lounge/diner, two good sized double bedrooms, house bathroom/WC with separate shower cubicle. Allocated parking, leasehold, currently let out at £485 pcm. Viewing highly recommended. EPC-B

£85,000

NETHERTON
Quayside Walk

NEW

A very well presented modern first floor two bed apartment with stunning views over the canal. A short drive to the Merry Hill centre and walking distance of Netherton. Having double glazing and electric heating, with a spacious entrance hall leading to lounge with fitted kitchen off, two good sized double bedrooms, master with en-suite shower/WC off, and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Off road allocated parking, views to rear (see pictures). Leasehold, no upward chain, available to view now. EPC-C

£104,950

UPPER GORNAL
Green Lane

NEW

A well-presented three bed mid terrace family home in a popular location, enjoying off road parking for at least two vehicles to the front, and a well-maintained garden with patio area and shed to the rear. Internally there is a lounge to the front, dining/kitchen to the rear with downstairs WC and utility room off. Upstairs has three good sized double bedrooms and a spacious house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. EPC-TBC, freehold.

£129,950

TIVIDALE
Aston Road

NEW

A beautifully presented, extended modernised semi-detached family home in this popular location. Having off road parking to the front for two vehicles. With entrance hall with stairs to first floor and door to: Spacious through lounge/diner, modern fitted kitchen. Upstairs there is a double room to the front, and two further double bedrooms off the landing, with a shower/WC centrally. To the rear there are steps to the paved patio area and further steps to a landscaped area. Freehold - viewing is highly recommended. EPC-TBC

£142,500

BRIERLEY HILL
Station Road

TO LET

Double room to rent. Suit a 25+ working female, shared lounges, kitchen and bathroom. Cat lover ideal. Landlord on site. Room located within a three bedroom mid terrace house. The rent includes all bills - gas, water, tv licence, council tax and broadband. EPC - F

£280 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Priory Street

TO LET

A modern one bedroom ground floor flat in Dudley town centre. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom with shower. One double bedroom. Unfurnished and available now. No pets. Dss considered with guarantor. EPC to follow

£320 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
High Street

TO LET

Modern one Bedroom 2nd floor apartment. Has open plan lounge and kitchen. Bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Modern fitted kitchen, includes integrated oven and hob a. Gas central heating. May consider DSS with good references and working guarantor. EPC B

£370 PCM & Fees

BILSTON
Bank Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern, one bedroom apartment with modern electric heating (very efficient) and double glazing. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Excellent location for commuting, good transport links, shops nearby. Off road parking, unfurnished, no DSS, no pets. EPC-C

£375 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Ednam Road

TO LET

A fantastic opportunity to acquire newly converted stylish one bedroom apartment in this refurbished block. 1st & 2nd Floor Apartments available Now. Conveniently located in the town centre. Modern fitted kitchen and lounge area completed to a high standard, viewings are recommended to appreciate these spacious apartments. Stylish bathrooms, Central heating. No Dss, No pets. EPC C

From £450 PCM & Fees

BILSTON
Sunbury Close

TO LET

A one bed first floor flat benefiting from reception room, central heating and double glazing, wc, shower room, communal gardens, double bedroom and small storage room, close amenities. Unfurnished, Available now. DSS considered with guarantor. EPC C

£385 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Priory Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

Two bedroom first floor apartment, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, separate utility room, separate WC, bathroom with shower, off road parking. EPC - E

£400 PCM & Fees

NETHERTON
St Johns Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern, two bed second floor apartment with lounge, fitted kitchen, two good-sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, no pets. No Dss. Available to let from 27th Feb 2016. EPC on order

£455 PCM & Fees

BILSTON
Evergreen Close

NEW INSTRUCTION

Nicely presented one bedroom back to back mews house with garden and parking to the front. Located in cul de sac. Has open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include all white goods, bathroom on the 1st floor with shower over bath. Bedroom has large fitted wardrobes. Double glazing, Council tax band A. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC - D

£475 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Southgate Way

TO LET

Modern two bedroom apartment within walking distance of to Dudley Town. Open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include integrated oven and hob. Has bathroom with one double and one single bedroom. The property is unfurnished, No Dss. No pets. EPC - C

£485 PCM & Fees

Gornal Wood
New Street

TO LET

A character property in the popular Gornal Wood - a two bed semi-detached house with double glazing and central heating, having a good-sized lounge with feature fireplace, a fitted kitchen/diner, upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms - one single and one double. House bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Off road parking outside (not allocated), side alley leading to patio/yard to the rear with shed. Unfurnished, no pets, no DSS. Available now EPC E

£500 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Lingwood Hall

TO LET

LUXURY TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT. Conveniently located, within walking to Dudley town centre. Briefly comprising: spacious lounge with dining area, modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, spacious bedrooms, master bedroom having en-suite and family bathroom. Gated secure allocated parking with intercom. No DSS. No pets No smokers. Available NOW. EPC - E

£515 PCM & Fees

TIPTON
Dougherty Close

TO LET

Located near the local train station! This modern and well presented TWO bedroom apartment briefly comprising: Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom and allocated parking space. Call 01384 213395 for more information. EPC - D.

£525 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Leys Crescent

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom semi-detached house, driveway to side with gardens to rear. Central heating, a large lounge with conservatory off, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/WC, upstairs has three good sized bedrooms. Unfurnished, available now. No pets, no smokers. DSS considered with guarantor. EPC D

£550 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Pages Croft

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment. Having open plan lounge and kitchen area to include built in appliances. Master bedroom with en-suite, bathroom. Secure entry, allocated parking. No DSS, no pets. EPC D

£550 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Westley Street

NEW PRICE

A modern 3 bed family home, parking for 2 cars with garage, double glazed with central heating, 2 double bedrooms main with ensuite shower and 1 single room, plenty of storage, unfurnished, near to amenities, No DSS, EPC - C

£625 PCM & Fees



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Drivetime



SsangYong driving towards 16 reg

SsangYong has announced an expanded PCP programme on selected Tivoli petrol and Korando diesel models, ahead of the arrival of the new 16 registration on March 1.

The contemporary SsangYong Tivoli B-segment SUV is available from SsangYong dealers with prices starting from just £12,950, while the new Giugiaro designed Korando 2.2 crossover is priced from just £15,995.

Commenting on these new PCPs, Paul Williams, chief executive officer of SsangYong Motor UK, said: "Sales of SsangYong cars increased considerably last year – in fact it was the second fastest growing franchise in the UK,

and the Tivoli and Korando did especially well. Both are well-built and comprehensively equipped, and at a price and warranty level no other brand can match. With these new PCPs from just £199 a month we are confident many more SsangYong cars will be sporting a new registration plate this year."

The Tivoli SE starts from just £12,950, and is powered by a 1.6 litre Euro 6 engine with manual transmission. Finished in a smart grey cloth trim, it includes 16" alloy wheels, cruise control, a stop/go system, Smart steering (normal, comfort and sport modes), an RDS/Bluetooth radio and seven airbags.

The EX adds the option of automatic transmission on the petrol powered car, grey or beige leather upholstery,

18" alloy Spiral wheels, dual zone climate control, 7" touch screen smart audio system with rear view camera, heated front seats, front fog lights and a luggage load cover.

Styling

The top of the range ELX is available with the choice of manual and automatic transmission, and features Diamond cut alloy wheels, a smart instrument cluster, smart keyless starting, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, rear spoiler, automatic headlamps, rain sensing wipers, full TomTom navigation system with 7" touch screen and rear view camera.

Designed by the Italian styling house, Giugiaro, the new

2016 Korando SE 2.2 starts from just £15,995 with 2-wheel drive (or £17,495 with 4-wheel drive), and is powered by the new 2.2 litre Euro 6 diesel engine with manual transmission. With its 2 tonne towing capacity making it especially well-suited to caravanners, the Korando represents superb value and is also extremely well equipped. The SE comes with smart cloth trim, electric windows, air conditioning, cruise control, 16" alloy wheels, an RDS/Bluetooth radio and six airbags. It also now includes roof rails, front fog lights and a rear parcel shelf as standard.

The PCP programme, which is being administered by SsangYong's finance provider GMAC, offers purchasers realistic deposits and highly competitive monthly payments.

INSIDE: WHAT THE DEALERS ARE OFFERING

Crossover personality

Known as ‘The Goddess’, Citroen’s original DS saloon was for many, one of the most beautiful cars ever.

In more recent times, both those famous initials and the design commitment they embody live again in the prestigious DS brand. This is that marque’s mid-range offering, the DS4, a premium five-door hatch targeting customers that’ll be new to a French manufacturer of this sort.

Slightly more compact than the Citroen C4 it’s based on, the DS4 is 60mm shorter, 20mm wider than that car and, in an effort to inject some ‘Crossover’ personality, 40mm taller. The DS engineers say that the resulting package manages to be more stable on the move, making the driver feel as if “they have the road at their fingertips.” That



ambition is backed up through the use of a MacPherson-type suspension set up at the front, and a flexible transverse beam at the rear, with hydraulic power steering.

The engine range is wide and flexible and all units meet the most stringent Euro6 emissions requirements. Most will choose a 1.6, with diesel drivers selecting between 120, 150 and 180bhp BlueHDi powerplants. The BlueHDi 180 model only comes with the brand’s EAT6 auto gearbox but its quite quick, making 62mph from rest in 8.6s.

Then there are three petrol options, with the entry-level PureTech 130 unit being a satisfying choice, despite its diminutive 1.2-litre capacity. It does, after all, make 62mph from rest in a reasonably fleet 10.1s en route to 123mph. If you need more poke, then the older 1.6-litre THP turbo petrol engines that the brand co-developed with BMW provide it. The THP 165 unit only comes with EAT6 auto transmission but you can order the THP 200 variant with a 6-speed manual ‘box. This latter variant is pretty rapid, making 62mph in 8.5s on the way to 146mph.

While it looks like a three-door coupe, this is in fact a genuine five-door hatch, an extremely attractive one at that! The panoramic windscreen extends backwards into the roof and the dimensions and its styling give the car a compact and muscular look. There’s a modest power bulge feel in the shape of the bonnet and further purposeful bulges over all four wheels, while a waist-height crease flows backwards from front arches which house wheels of up to 19-inches in size. The steeply raked roof drops away to the rear hatch with its subtle spoiler to give coupe-like sporty edginess.

Inside the luxuriously-trimmed cabin, the driver faces an array of smart chrome-rimmed dials and a sculpted, contoured dashboard. Premium touches include embossed leather



.....

While it looks like a three-door coupe, this is in fact a genuine five-door hatch, an extremely attractive one at that!

.....

door handles, plenty of chrome detailing and cool ambient lighting. Far more attention has been paid to build quality and refinement too, to match this up-market feel. Then there’s that panoramic windscreen, offering front occupants a 45-degree view upwards and giving the cabin a real feeling of light and airiness also enjoyed by those in the back seats. And talking of the rear, there’s proper space for two adults there – or three at a squash. Plus a boot behind of 370-litres, larger than that in rivals like VW’s Golf or Alfa Romeo’s Giulietta.

With DS4s being priced from around the £20,000 mark, this French contender isn’t cheap – but then neither is its value proposition. The beautifully-designed cabin is spacious, the engines efficient and powerful and the technology impressive. Here then, is a car that, for the price of something plush and ordinary, delivers the extraordinary. Just as DS models always have.

Price: £19,595-£22,595, on- the- road
Who to see: Call Lloyd James or any of the Citroen team on 01384 549760.

DS3 PureTech
82 Manual Dstyle

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DS5 BlueHDi 120 S&S
6-speed manual Elegance

£399 Per Month

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New DS4 PureTech 130 S&S 6-speed Manual Prestige



Term of Agreement 37 Months	36 Monthly Payments of £289.00	Customer Deposit £289.00	Deposit Contribution £1,154.00	Total Deposit £1,443.00	On the Road Cash Price £20,745.00	Total Advance £19,302.00
Interest £0.00	Total Credit Charge £0.00	Final Purchase Payment £8,898.00	APR Representative 0.0%	Total Amount Payable £20,745.00	Annual Mileage 6,000	Excess Mileage Charge 9.6 pence per mile

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Astra better in every way

The seventh generation version of Vauxhall's Astra family hatch manages to be sleeker, better equipped, more efficient and more spacious than its predecessor, while in some cases actually costing less than it did before

Think that sounds promising? Then like us, you might think that this could be the toughest rival yet for the segment-leading Ford Focus.

You know at first glance that this is a Vauxhall thanks to the latest take on the corporate grille, now flowing into headlights which come with the option of full LED technology. There's also the familiar 'blade' graphic stamped into the side of the body and rear lights that now spread into the tailgate like the smaller Corsa.

Inside, despite the reduction in exterior size, you get an additional 35mm of rear leg-room compared to the old car. Move up-front and there's the expected smarter fascia with splashes of chrome and the expected standard touchscreen infotainment screen that as usual reduces dashboard button clutter. For the first time, the General Motors 'OnStar' system is available, the set-up providing an in-car Wi-Fi hotspot, 24/7 assistance from a dedicated service team and the ability to call the emergency services if the airbags deploy.

Engine-wise, though the original 100PS 1.4-litre petrol unit remains from the previous range, much else is new. There's the 105PS 1.0-litre three cylinder turbo unit borrowed from the Corsa, plus 125PS and 150PS versions of a new direct injection 1.4-litre turbo powerplant too, plus a 1.6-litre 200PS version of this engine further up the range. Diesel buyers get 110PS, 136PS and 160PS 1.6-litre CDTi options. Go for the 1.6 litre CDTi 110PS diesel ecoFLEX model and you'll get a car capable of 91.1mpg on the combined cycle while emitting only 82g/km of CO2.

Prices start from just over £15,000 and range up to around £23,000 and there's the usual mainstream bodystyle choice of five-door hatch and estate. The MK6 model-based GTC coupe continues on in its older form. With the latest generation hatch and estate, there are five main trim levels - 'Design', 'Tech Line', 'Energy', 'SRI' and 'Elite'. Best of all, it's mainly British, with hatch and estate models built at Ellesmere Port near Liverpool.

● Who to see: T. Wall, Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford. DY6 8XB. Call 01384 288333.



For the first time, General Motors 'OnStar' system is available, the set-up providing an in-car Wi-Fi hotspot, 24/7 assistance from a dedicated service team and the ability to call the emergency services if the airbags deploy

TESTED

Vauxhall Astra range

Price: 5-door Hatch, £15,295-£23,520, on-the-road

Insurance: TBC

CO2: 82-146g/km

Performance: For 1.6 CDTi 110PS, 0-62mph 10.3s/ top speed 121mph

Fuel: For 1.6 CDTi 110PS ecoFLEX, 91.2mpg (combined)

Safety: Twin front side and curtain airbags, ABS.

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Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback
1.4 Limited Edition 3dr Representative example

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£13,450.00	£158.58	£159.00	£1,300.00	£1,000.00	£10,992.00	£6,175.00	£14,481.30

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Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY
01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk



Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.4i 90PS Limited Edition with 17" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions: 121g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. *Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. *Insurance offer subject to eligibility, terms and conditions. All offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Sportage prices revealed

Kia has just announced pricing and specifications for the fourth-generation of its best-selling model in the UK, the stylish Sportage crossover.

There are 18 variants on offer priced from just £17,995 on the road. For the first time GT-Line versions add an even more sporty flourish to the range, while the line-up is headed by the luxurious First Edition model, priced at £31,645. GT-Line models start at £24,350. The new Sportage is now on sale.

The new Sportage brings major advances in fuel efficiency, comfort, connectivity, convenience and safety. The acclaimed styling of a model which sells as much on its looks as on its practicality has been subtly modernised and every model benefits from a more premium look and feel to the interior.

There are now four engines and three transmissions with the introduction of a 1.6-litre T-GDi (turbocharged gasoline direct injection) unit and a 7DCT (seven-speed dual-clutch automatic) gearbox, both of

which are reserved exclusively for GT-Line. They join extensively re-engineered 1.6-litre GDi petrol and 1.7- and 2.0-litre turbodiesel power units with improved fuel economy and CO2 reductions of up to 29g/km, which means significantly lower company car tax for the Sportage's loyal business drivers.

The six trim lines are badged 1, 2, 3, 4, GT-Line and First Edition. All versions powered by the 1.6-litre GDi and 1.7-litre CRDi engines are front-wheel drive, while those powered by the 1.6-litre T-GDi unit and the two 2.0-litre CRDi diesels have all-wheel drive. Four-wheel-drive versions are distinguished by the 'KX' prefix in the model designation - except for GT-Line and First Edition versions.

Connectivity and advanced driver aids are a pre-requisite in any car these days, and the Sportage will not disappoint. All versions except the entry-level grade have a 7- or 8-inch touch-screen satellite navigation system linked to Kia Connected Services with TomTom®, providing full European mapping and detailed traffic, speed camera, weather and local services information. Up the range,



All versions are well equipped with an extensive package of comfort, convenience and safety items

speed limit information, lane keep assist, high beam assist, autonomous emergency braking and blind spot detection with rear cross traffic alert are available.

All versions are well equipped with an extensive package of comfort, convenience and safety items. Even 'base' model Grade 1/KX-1 comes equipped, with 16-inch alloy wheels and all-round disc brakes, a black diamond-mesh grille with chromed surround, front foglights, LED daytime running lamps, cornering lights, chrome-coated belt-line mouldings, smart black cloth upholstery with a grey head-

lining, electrically adjustable door mirrors, leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshift, all electric windows, air conditioning, DAB radio, Bluetooth with music streaming, USB and AUX ports, 12-volt power outlet in front and rear, trailer stability assist, hill-start assist, downhill brake control and cruise control with speed limiter.

Who to see:

● Brindley Kia, 55 Penn Rd, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW. Call: 01902 508440.

● Brindley Kia, 85 New Road, Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7BX. Call: 0121 629 0885

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brindleykia.co.uk

• 55 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW

T. 01902 690633

brindleykia.co.uk

Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Kia Sportage range: Urban 28.2 (10.0) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 43.5 (6.5) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 37.2 (7.6) – 61.4 (4.6), CO2 emissions 177 – 119g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Available between 05/02/16 and 31/03/16 inclusive. Available over 25, 31 & 37 months. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Model shown: All-New Kia Sportage 'GT-Line' 1.6 T-GDi 174bhp 6-speed manual (AWD). Offer not available with any other offer. Offers not available in The Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only. Details correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk.

E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.

An assured Suzuki Vitara

The Vitara, Suzuki's latest compact crossover, aims to build a lot of talent into four metres. With a choice of petrol or diesel, front or all-wheel drive and styling that's more assured than anything Suzuki has brought us before, it looks to be an extremely competitive proposition.

The mechanicals are shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard, with an optional CVT transmission also offered.

Go diesel and you get a six-speed man-

ual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but ground clearance isn't that generous. The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console.

Choose 'Auto' and it'll stick to driving the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits the torque equally between front and rear.

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design about it, the Vitara is quite an assured piece of design work. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat tail-lamp finish. Buyers can also specify a rugged package which adds front and rear skidplates as well as additional body side mouldings.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this latest Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up in terms of quality and the materials used. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (some of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims and an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a sizable 375-litre boot. That's ample and very competitive against its rivals.

Who to see: Halesowen Motor House Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH. Tel: 0121 503 0000.



With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design about it, the Vitara is quite an assured piece of design work.

TESTED

Suzuki Vitara

Price: £13,999-£23,899 on-the-road

Insurance: tba

Performance: For the 1.6 diesel 4wd, 0-62mph 11.4 seconds. Max speed 112mph

Fuel: For the 1.6 diesel 4wd, 67.3mpg combined cycle

Emissions: 106-130g/km

Safety: Twin front and side airbags, ABS with EBD, traction and stability control



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- Crossover with striking SUV styling
- ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive technology**
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Contact Halesowen Motor House Today.

Request a Test Drive today: suzuki.co.uk/halesowenmotorhouse

Halesowen Motor House

Dudley Road Halesowen B63 3NH 0121 503 0001

Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO₂ emissions 131-106 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Vitara range: *Vitara SZ4 1.6 Petrol Manual available at £13,999 to Vitara SZ5 1.6 DDIS ALLGRIP TCSS with Rugged Pack available at £23,149. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2016 to 31st March 2016 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. **SZ5 models only. †SZ-T and SZ5 models only. Model shown: Vitara 1.6 SZ4 available at £13,999 on the road. (Single-tone metallic paint available at an additional cost of £430, dual-tone paint available at an additional cost of £800.)



Tucson is ready to take on the crossover opposition



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www.brindleyhyundai-wolverhampton.co.uk
www.brindleyhyundai-westbromwich.co.uk

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 231 - 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK, between 1st January and 31st March 2016, inclusive. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask us.

Until the arrival of this Tucson model, Hyundai's idea of a Qashqai-style family crossover model was encapsulated by its ix35. That car sold quite well but somehow, never quite captured the imagination of the buying public. The Tucson though, is a leaner, meaner-looking contender that might well catapult the Korean brand into credible contention in this important growing segment.

People have come to expect a lot when it comes to driving crossover cars. Although they want a lofty perch, they also want to feel like they could be driving a hatchback. The Tucson delivers exactly this blend of virtues, hence its very road-biased suspension set-up – and the overwhelming emphasis on two wheel drive models across the range.

All bases are covered when it comes to engines with a good selection of both petrols and diesels.

At the lower end of the range, there's a choice of a 132PS 1.6 GDi petrol or a 116PS CRDi 1.7 diesel.

Turbocharged

Move a little higher and you can upgrade to a turbo-charged 1.6 GDi with 177PS. Diesel fans will find a 2.0 CRDi with either 136PS or 185PS. If you want 4WD, then you'll need the turbo petrol or one of the 2.0-litre diesels.

The 4WD system is absolutely fine for slippery surfaces but it's not an out and out mud pluggers.

As usual with Hyundai models, there's the option of varying the feel of the steering feedback, via different modes.

With an imposing hexagonal grille and sleek Santa Fe-style headlights, the Tucson is a good looking crossover.

The wheelarches are pulled backwards which, along with the rising windowline and prominent creases in the flanks, adds some athleticism to the side profile.

The new Tucson is well equipped. Even base 'S' trim comes with kit like a DAB digital radio and Bluetooth connectivity, plus USB and AUX connections, 16" alloy wheels, air conditioning and auto headlights.

So, what do we have?

The tough looks of an SUV, the sensible practicality of a five-seater mini-MPV and the affordability of a family hatchback.

These are the facts behind a Tucson model so good that it'll attract many new buyers to the Hyundai brand.

Hyundai's new generation Tucson is nicely built, efficient to run and quite capable in 4WD form of getting everywhere any ordinary family driver might want to go.

More important will be this model's competitive pricing and lengthy warranty. It's a Hyundai of the modern era.

And that makes it a very impressive car indeed.

View and test drive the impressive Hyundai Tucson by visiting Brindley Hyundai at the following locations:

- Brindley Hyundai West Bromwich, Millenium Park, New Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR. Call: 0121 696 4460.
- Brindley Hyundai Wolverhampton, 55 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV2 4WW. Call: 01902 310666.



Supermini Civic range well worth a lookover

The Honda Civic has come in for a much-needed once-over, getting restyling at the front and the rear, while the interior gets higher quality fitments and a 7-inch Honda Connect touch screen. There's a Sport trim level inserted into the range to bridge the gap to the turbocharged Type-R range-topper.

Let's make note that there are some things about the Civic that are really, really good. We don't think there's a better diesel in the whole supermini sector that the 120PS 1.6-litre diesel unit.

There's also an entry-level 1.4-litre petrol engine offered along with a 142PS 1.8-litre petrol powerplant. At the top of the range is the banzai Civic Type-R which features turbo-charging for the very first time.

There have been a considerable number of exterior design tweaks to both the Civic hatch and Civic Tourer estate. In come revised headlight units with integrated daytime running lights and a more rakish front bumper assembly.

The Civic hatchback also features a slicker design for the rear bumper, side skirts, a rear spoiler finished in black, plus LED rear lamps. The Civic's 477-litre capacity remains the best in its segment.

Who to see:

● Brindley Honda in Wolverhampton, Cannock and West Bromwich. See more at: www.brindley.co.uk/honda

TESTED

Honda Civic range

Price: £16,470-£32,295 on-the-road

Insurance: 5E-17E (excluding Type-R)

CO2: For the 1.6 diesel, 94g/km

Performance: For the 1.6 diesel, 0-62 10.5 seconds. Top speed 129mph

Fuel: For the 1.6 diesel, 78.5mpg combined cycle

Safety: ESP stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA & EBD, twin front, side, and curtain airbags

The improved, smarter and more affordable Honda Civic might just be at its best in sleek Tourer guise. With a class-best 642 litres of luggage room with the rear seats in place and the cleverest seat folding system in the business, it's well worth a look.

The interior boot floor of the Civic Tourer has been raised compared to the hatchback to create a completely flat area when the seats are folded down. The rear seat cushions can also be flipped up to reveal ample floor space for carrying tall objects.

A 60:40 split in the seat base offers even more options for carrying both people and cargo and provides an alternative load area if access via the tailgate is limited. There is also a very handy hidden compartment perfect for storing the tonneau cover when it is not needed.

Furthermore, there is additional under floor storage in the boot which makes carrying tall objects in the boot easy, plus the height of the loading lip has been reduced by 137mm compared to the Civic hatchback. It's all been very well thought through, and it makes for an effective and desirable estate.

Who to see:

● Brindley Honda in Wolverhampton, Cannock and West Bromwich. See more at: www.brindley.co.uk/honda

TESTED

Honda Civic Tourer range

Price: £18,585-£27,030

Insurance: 15-17

CO2: 99-155g/km

Performance: For the 1.6 i-DTEC, 0-60mph in 10.3 seconds. Top speed 121mph

Fuel: For 1.6 i-DTEC, 74.3mpg in combined cycle

Safety: ESP stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA & EBD, twin front, side, and curtain airbags



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Diesel version also available – ask for details



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- browsing, Garmin® navigation
- 2 x USB/HDMI connection
- 6 speakers
- rear parking camera
- climate control dual auto a/c
- cruise control with speed limiter
- rain sensing wipers
- front and rear parking sensors

All cars come with the balance of 3 years warranty and AA cover, choice of colours. Pictures for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previous offers.

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0121 629 0990

Brindley Wolverhampton
West Street, off Stafford Road
Wolverhampton WV10 6HT
01902 690601

Fiesta smarter all round

The Ford Fiesta has always been a vehicle the British public has warmed to but the truth is that before this seventh generation model arrived, supermini buyers chose this car either because it was great to drive or because they'd been offered a deal too good to turn down.

This latest model changed all that – and this one takes things a step further still, smarter to look at, smarter to sit in, smarter to operate and, perhaps most importantly, smarter under the bonnet.

The engine line-up starts with the older generation 1.25-litre petrol unit, offered with either 60 or 82PS.

To get beyond these and get yourself one of the clever new 1.0-litre petrol engines or the base 1.5-litre TDCi diesel, you need a

slightly plusher trim level. And that means you'll need to have somewhere between £13,000 to £14,000 to spend, depending on the model you're looking at. In terms of the 1.0-litre petrol powerplants, the 100PS EcoBoost is well worth the £500 premium over the 80PS unit.

While if you're looking for a diesel, it's worth considering the £1,200 premium to go from the 75PS 1.5-litre TDCi to a 95PS 1.6-litre TDCi variant that features more frugal ECOnetic technology.

Variations on the Fiesta theme may come and go but before driving any version of Ford's definitive supermini, there's one thing you almost always know for certain: that it'll be a great steer.

There's a deftness to the way this car responds, an agility to the way it nips around the bends that no other small car can quite match.

Aspirated

With the 1.25-litre 60 and 82PS petrol engines sitting at the bottom of the line-up, it's best to get beyond them and reach for the state-of-the-art powerplants based around an award winning three cylinder 1.0-litre unit offered in a trio of different guises.

Most affordable is a normally aspirated 80PS 1.0 Ti-VCT unit but for only a few hundred pounds less than the version of this 1.0-litre engine I'd really point you towards the quicker 100PS turbocharged EcoBoost unit.

It's also offered with 125PS, but only in the pricier trim levels. No, the 100PS variant is all you really need, spiriting you to sixty in 11.2s to the accompaniment of a buzzy but far from unpleasant three cylinder thrum.

There are other petrol options in this Fiesta line-up such as the 1.6-litre options, but



.....
There's one thing you almost always know for certain; that it'll be a great steer

they're probably of minority interest there's an older 105PS unit that only comes with the Powershift twin-clutch automatic transmission, while at the other extreme, there's the 180PS 1.6-litre EcoBoost turbo powerplant for the hot hatch ST shopping rocket model.

That only leaves the 75PS 1.5 and 95PS 1.6-litre TDCi diesel units, engines you're really going to have to want to choose them over the EcoBoost petrol powerplants.

Who to see: Call any of the sales team on 01384 288333

TESTED

Ford Fiesta

Price: £10,245-£19,645, on-the-road

Insurance: 3E-T2 – 30E-T2

CO2: 85-138g/km

Performance: [1.0 EcoBoost 100PS] 0-62mph 11.2s / Max speed 112mph

Fuel: [1.0 EcoBoost] (combined) 65.7mpg

Safety: Electronic stability control, ABS with brake assist, seven airbags

£1,060 Deposit Allowance
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www.twallford.co.uk



Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Fiesta range: urban 33.6-76.4(8.4-3.7), extra urban 62.8-91.3(4.5-3.1), combined 47.9-35.6(5.9-3.3). Official CO2 emissions 85-133 g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. Retail only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Freepost Ford Credit. Subject to availability at a Ford Authorised Dealer for new vehicles contracted between 08.02.2016 – 31.03.2016 and registered between 08.02.2016 – 31.03.2016. ^Deposit Allowance available when financed with Ford Credit. Excludes Studio, Zetec S and ST. T Wall Garages acts as a credit broker in relation to finance products and not a lender.

Some faces which may be familiar to customers of the previous Honda Dealership in Halesowen - now at Startin Honda

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We have been very pleased to welcome existing Honda owners in the area and aim to provide the consistently high level of customer care that all Honda owners expect.

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world's leading brands.

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We operate in a friendly relaxed atmosphere so you'll feel right at home and able to enjoy our fresh coffee and biscuits - you may even see some familiar faces!

We look forward to welcoming you to the new Startin Honda dealership in Stourbridge soon.



Tom Hall - Sales Executive



Jayne Young - Sales Administrator



Liz Cartwright - Service Advisor



Darren Goodall - Technician



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£189.⁹⁵ Per Month

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: HONDA CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC EX, SR, AS: Urban 28.0 (10.1), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 36.7 (7.7), CO₂ emissions 179(g/km). Lowest: HONDA Civic 1.6 i-DTEC S, S Navi, SE Plus, SE Plus Navi, SR, M6: urban 70.6 (4.0), extra urban 85.6 (3.3), combined 78.5 (3.6). Official CO₂ emission 94g/km. Retail only. Subject to availability. Prices & details correct at time of publishing & are subject to change without notice. *Finance subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Startin Group Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as a credit broker but not as a lender. Registered Office: Startin Group Limited, Far Moor Lane Coventry Highway, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 0SD. Company No. 00543964

Tony Lister – probably the most experienced salesman in the country

How many people do you know who can honestly tell you that they've worked for over 65 years, with no gaps in employment? Well, 82-year-old Tony Lister at Dudley Motor Company has quite a few stories to tell after nearly 67 years of service as a car salesman.

Yes, that's a whopping 67 years of employment within the local vehicle retailing sector, and he's loved almost every bit of it.

What's more, he's never strayed from Vauxhall during all that time.

Now, after what must be a record, at least in this country, and possibly anywhere in the world, Tony is preparing to step down from the business of selling vehicles after nearly 70 years of service.

He's focused on selling Vauxhalls and Bedford vans and trucks for much of his life. While the Bedford name was dropped in 1991, Vauxhall remains the UK's largest manufacturer of vans today.

Reputation

Tony first joined Ryland Motors in Birmingham in 1949 at the tender age of 15. And there he stayed for 34 years, working up the ranks to eventually managing three sites for the company, including Old Hill Motors, which while owned by Ryland Motors, held the franchise for Austin, Morris and Rover.

Tony says: "I joined Ryland Motors just under four years after the end of the Second World War, and the first car I sold was an F Model Victor.

"I believe it was finished in silver blue paint. Unfortunately it had a reputation for aging quite quickly with rust being a real problem.

"It looked good when new and featured American styling so it really stood out from the crowd of quite dull designs at the time."

Joining Dudley Motor Company, Tony found that many of his customers followed him and he's still selling cars to those same loyal people and their families to this day, including their children and grandchildren.

He became the dealership's Accredited Motability Specialist in 1982 after the Vauxhall Area sales manager insisted that he do so, and it's a role that he really loves.

It's also pretty obvious that Tony's customers love dealing with him, too. His friendly demeanour and pleasant personality ensures that he's extremely popular with all customers and staff.

Generation

Over the years Tony has seen so many Vauxhall models come and go.

From that original F Model and original Vivas, the Victor, VX490, the Chevette of the 1970's right through to the latest generation British-built Astra, Tony has seen and sold them all.

Indeed, he's sold thousands of vehicles over the past 67 years, and his knowledge and experience of the Vauxhall brand and its many products down the years just cannot be matched.

"Of course, many things have changed within the motor industry," said Tony. "With all the technology featured in vehicles today, even in the smallest of city cars such as the Vauxhall ADAM, the industry has been completely transformed.

"Cars are much more reliable and gaps between services have widened hugely."

Tony's philosophy over more than six decades is to talk to people, get to know them properly in order to create a bond of trust.

It's certainly worked well for him, and Dudley Motors, as he enjoys a considerable loyalty from customers which then brings in a lot of repeat business.

But at the age of 82 Tony is surely entitled to take things a little easier, but he and the team at Dudley Motors are very keen to stay in touch.

So there's every likelihood that he'll be a regular visitor to the showroom, dropping into join his friends for a cuppa!



DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY
A family owned Vauxhall dealer based in Dudley serving the West Midlands

01384454100

CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK



2012 Citroen Nemo 1.3 HDi LX 5 doors, white, diesel, 42,732 miles

£4,850 +VAT



2007 Chrysler Crossfire 3.2 V6 2dr 2 doors, Auto, Convertible, Petrol, Blue, 62,656 miles

£6,995



2012 Mini Clubman 1.6 One D 5 door, Diesel, Estate, Manual, Silver, 28,000 miles

£8,995

Vauxhall Adam Selection

2013/13	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 3 door, White, 10,175 miles	£7295
2013/13	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS JAM Red, 8,654 miles	£7295
2013/63	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS SLAM 3 door, Yellow, 7,450 miles	£7995
2014/14	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS JAM Arden Blue, 3,656 miles	£8695
2014/64	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i GLAM 3 door, PANORAMIC ROOF White, low mileage	£9495

Vauxhall Antara Selection

2007/07	VAUXHALL ANTARA 4X4 AUTOMATIC Grey, 70,000 miles	£6995
2012/61	VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.4i 16V 167PS EXCLUSIV 5 door, Black, 38,697 miles	£9350
2012/12	VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 EXCLUSIVE CDTI 5 door, White, 30,000 miles	£9995
2012/12	VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTI SE NAV AU 5 door, Grey, 39,245 miles	£11995

Vauxhall Astra Selection

2007/57	VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.8 AUTOMATIC 26,000 miles, Beige	£3695
2007/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI SPORT HATCH 1.6 3 door, Grey, 47,000 miles	£3995
2007/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DIESEL ENERGY Grey, 44,000 miles	£4350
2007/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA TWIN TOP DESIGN 48,000 miles, Red	£4995
2007/07	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi TWINPORT 5 door, Black, 36,902 miles	£4995
2010/60	VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 1.7 DIESEL SRI Black, 70,000 miles	£6495
2010/60	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 door, Grey, 54,000 miles	£6495
2010/60	VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4i ESTATE grey 50,000 miles	£6650
2011/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE 5 door, Silver 23,000 miles	£7495
2012/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI 5 door, White, 43,000 miles	£7995
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5 door, White, 22,000 miles	£8495
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 1.7 CDTI ECOFLEX White, 34,000 miles	£8995
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.7 3 door, Red, 17,291 miles	£9650
2015/15	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SRI 5 door, choice of colours and engines available, 15,000 miles	£10995
2014/64	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DESIGN CDTI ECOFLEX 5 door, Silver, 7,316 miles	£10995
2015/15	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SRI 5 door, choice of colours and engines available, 15,000 miles	£10995
2013/13	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTI SRI 19" Alloys, White, 15,000 miles	£11495
2015/64	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T Yellow, 10,000 miles	£11595
2014/64	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 2.0 CDTI S/S White, 8,759 miles	£12250

Vauxhall Corsa Selection

2004/04	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 5 door, Red, 39,000 miles	£2995
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE 45,000 miles	£6495
2014/63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN AUTOMATIC Grey, 21,000 miles	£7495
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 20,195 miles	£7995
2015/64	VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 3 door Grey only 3000 miles	£7995
2014/14	VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 11,400 miles	£8995
2010/10	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR 3 door, Blue, 26,908 miles	£9495
2015/15	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC 5 door, Black, 13,332 miles	£10995

2015/15	VAUXHALL CORSA SRI 1.4 3 door, White, 4,000 miles	£10995
2014/64	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 TURBO 3 door, Silver, 4,338 miles	£11495

Vauxhall Insignia Selection

2012/12	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIV 43,000 miles, Silver	£7450
2012/62	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTI NAV ECOFLEX 36,000 miles, Grey	£9495
2014/64	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8VVT SRI 140PS 5-door, Silver, Hatchback, 9,000 miles	£11995
2013/63	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA LIMITED EDITION CDTI AUTOMATIC Black, Low miles	£12250
2015/15	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8i VVT 140 SRI Hatchback. White, 9,583 miles	£12795
2015/15	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI DIESEL SRI 140PS SAT NAV Hatchback, Red, 7,100 miles	£16495
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2015/15	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER CDTI BI-TURBO 195 PS VX LINE Red, 7,300 miles	£17995

Vauxhall Mokka Selection

2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 EXCLUSIV 115PS 5 door Hatchback, SvSp, Blue, 18,737 miles	£11495
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI TECH LINE Blue, 36,000 miles	£12450
2012/62	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE 130PS 5 door Hatchback, White, 15,000 miles	£13995
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE White, 18,000 miles	£13995

Vauxhall Meriva and Zafira Selection

2008/08	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRI MPV Blue, 59,000 miles	£4995
2011/60	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i 16V EXCLUSIV 5 door, Silver, 39,891 miles	£5995
2012/12	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN Silver, 36,000 miles	£7995
2012/12	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTI EXCLUSIV Silver, 55,000 miles	£7995
2014/14	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 TECHLINE Black, 5,489 miles	£9495
2012/12	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 TURBO Silver, 29,000 miles	£9995
2013/63	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0CDTI SE White, 24, 000 miles	£12650

Other Makes

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2005/05	MGF SUNSTORM Silver, 75,000 miles, IMMACULATE	£2995
2005/05	VW BEETLE 1.6 CABRIOLET 3 door, Blue, 55,500 miles	£3695
2008/58	FORD FOCUS ECONETIC DIESEL 73,000 miles, Silver	£4995
2010/60	RENAULT GRAND MODUS 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE 5 door, 23,500 miles, Blue	£5350
2011/61	RENAULT WIND 1.2 TCE GT LINE 2 door, Blue, 45,386 miles	£5250
2003/03	TOYOTA RAV 4 2.0 NRG 3 door Estate, Silver, 49,198 miles	£5695
2007/07	CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE 3.2 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE 65,000 miles	£7995
2012/12	MINI 1.6 CLUBMAN D ESTATE Silver, 28,432 miles	£8995
2013/13	RENAULT CLIO DIESEL 5 door, 23,000 miles, Yellow	£9495
2012/62	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ASENTA PREMIUM 5 door, Grey, 17,769 miles	£9995
2012/62	TOYOTA RAV 4 2.2 D-4D XT-R 5 door, Metallic Red, WITH REVERSE CAMERA, 31,000 miles	£14750

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(Between Cousins and Dudley Zoo)



Engaging experience in pretty crossover

By Sharon Walters

It's more than two years since a piece of Peugeot wizardry first impressed me. That was when the company invited motoring writers to drive up and down the ski slope at Tamworth Snowdome in a 2008 to test its Grip Control – a system already in use on other models in the Peugeot stable.

Now this small crossover isn't 4x4 and can't tackle major off-road conditions but it can cope with the majority falls of snow we usually experience with Grip Control.

In Tamworth Grip Control easily coped with the snowy slopes – take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTVPxHX1jZo&feature=youtu.be> to see for yourself.

However, taking part in a demonstration is all very well. The system is shown to you by skilled drivers and then you take the wheel for yourself. All in a relatively controlled situation. When you have to use the system in the 'real' world it can be an entirely different matter. But that was not the case when an overnight fall of snow in Scotland left my car at the top of a car park with a steep slope exiting onto the highway. Into Snow Mode on Grip Control and I floated out in perfect control unlike a number of other people who went before and slipped and slithered down on to the road.

And here's how it works. The system works with the electronic stability programme to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. There are five operating modes on a control mounted down by the gear lever. In Standard mode, the vehicle's ESP system is calibrated for typical grip levels found on normal road surfaces, where there are low levels of wheel slip. Snow mode adapts the system to gain the best traction from each of the front wheels when the car is pulling away. As the car increases speed, the system constantly tweaks the traction control to maintain acceleration in the face of variable grip conditions. The system returns to Standard mode once you are over 31 mph.

All-terrain mode copes with mud, dirt tracks and wet grass by allowing a high level of slip on the least stable wheel when pulling away to remove excess mud and improve grip. At the same time, the wheel with the strongest grip level is given as much torque as possible. As the system is electronically controlled the torque offset between the front wheels can be as much as 100 per cent, well beyond normal limits for a limited slip differential. As the car gains speed, the system continually optimises wheel slip to give the driver the best possible control over the vehicle up to 50 mph. And this was also put to use on the Scottish trip on a foray up a couple of rough tracks to park close to the Highland Way in preparation for checking out my own grip control in a walk after heavy rain!

Sand mode allows slight wheel slip on both drive wheels simultaneously, to allow the vehicle to make headway and reduce the risk of getting stuck in the sand. Here again, the control provided by this mode is superior to that of a limited slip differential. In this mode, Standard mode kicks in automatically above a speed of 75 mph. Sadly no trips to the glorious west coast to test this mode. The result of this mode is a great all-round ability on all sorts of terrain as well as good towing and carrying for outdoor activities.

Peugeot has targeted the 2008 at young city-dwellers who love the urban environment, but also enjoy escaping it. I also think it is very attractive to people of more mature years! There's a choice of the latest generation of efficient Peugeot BlueHDi diesel and award-winning, 'Engine of the Year' three-cylinder PureTech petrol engines. CO2 emissions are as low as 95g/km, while combined cycle fuel economy is as high as 78.5mpg.

You also get an engaging driving experience, high levels of equipment, comfort and high quality in materials and finish with a choice of eight interior trims.

The spacious and flexible cabin has a cockpit-style instrument panel and aircraft-type handbrake with a smart satin chrome finish on the air vents, handbrake lever, steering wheel, gear lever and touch-screen trims.

Fold the 60:40 split rear bench and you increase the boot space from 360 to 1,194 litres and a completely flat load area. And all it takes to create that space is one press of the button at the top of the rear seat back to fold the seat, as the seat cushion retracts automatically. A wide tailgate and low loading lip – makes it easy to load and unload. There's also storage space under the boot floor around the spare wheel.

On the safety front there's a raft of active and passive equipment which has earned the 2008 a five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating.

Priced from just £13,195, the Peugeot 2008 is available to buy using the brand's 'Just Add FuelTM' finance package. Combining all motoring costs into a single monthly payment, the Peugeot 2008 Active PureTech 1.2-litre 82bhp is available for £199pcm, over 36 months, following a deposit of £2,080 (4.9% APR).

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BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS
wanted by private collector.
Please contact 01902 576540.**READERS ARE ADVISED** to care-
fully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
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Servicing and Repairs
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All quotes beaten!
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SPECIALIST FLOOR REPAIRS AND
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UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
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COURIERS
Parcels / Pallets,
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Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.
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cal. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.**fencing****A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY**
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for house clearances and bereavements.
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Turfing, Decking,
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www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per
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Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
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07761 973975**domestic repairs**
& services**READERS ARE ADVISED**
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.**A BOILER BREAKDOWN,**
COOKER, FIRE,
FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
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All work guaranteed. All trades
covered. References available on
request. No job too big or too small
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479**house clearances****A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items,
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local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
422 2999 or 07815 043724**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reli-
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01902 780327/07973 721206**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your
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01902 830870 / 01384 940260.**A & M CHEAP**
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Careful Firm
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422 2999 or 07815 043724**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reli-
able removal service. Insured.
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4

Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
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@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies, 8 weeks old, parents can be seen, £325, 07572 687123.

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 862600

6

Property

houses for sale

BUY TO LET OPPORTUNITY 3-bed semi detached in Penn, currently long term let at £600pcm/excellent tenants. £152,000. 07779 445798.

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WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
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- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND 30 yrs

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I pay 100% of purchase price
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FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

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Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

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100% MARKET VALUE IN 28 DAYS!

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Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
Houses/Land Required

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A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

WE BUY ANY PROPERTY
IN ANY CONDITION
CASH IN 7 DAYS
Call Steve 07542 051375

WORKING COUPLE WANT
2/3 bed house rented property with grazing, outbuildings, possible room for mushroom / tomato growing. Anything considered, good references from current landlord of 8 years. 07444 167462.

accommodation to let

A 1 BED WILLENHALL, 1 bed Finchfield, 3 Bed Blinston to let. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A FURNISHED flat for single mature responsible worker, £380pcm, inc all bills, cleaning/linen, Stafford Road, no DSS. 07957 595840.

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07776 680636.

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*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to: www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

Free Ads

7

Jobs

bar staff

EXPERIENCED BAR STAFF
Friday night, Saturday - day and Sunday night. The Fountain Inn, Lower Gornal. 01384 242777.

cleaners

CLEANERS required, DY9 7DZ, WV10 7QZ, DY7 6AB, Call Abbey cleaning 01902 653322.

courses

CRH Transport Training Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

MARCH MADNESS!!!!
Driver CPC - £45.
Please call 07950 159094.

drivers

HOOK LIFT / SKIP DRIVER
required. Dudley Based. Experience Essential. Contact on 011 01384 213332.

full time - general

STEEL SLITTING LINE Operator
required. Kidderminster based steel stockholder requires the above due to expansion. Good rates of pay for right applicant. Contact Chris Wright (Works Manager) on 01562 66615 to arrange interview.

TRAINEE HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR
required, based within the West Midlands.
To visit clients and provide Health & Safety advice.
Must have experience in the construction industry.

Please apply with CV to: Box Number P20223, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

IT support person required
for Photo Booth technical support, duties include dealing with customers, photo booth issues as well as Programming Photo Booths, Electrical assembly, full training given, must have genuine interest in computers and be computer literate.
Salary up to £10 per hour.
Please send CV's to Claire@photobooth.co.uk
PHOTOBOOTH.CO.UK
Brierley Hill, West Midlands

WHITING landscape

Landscape maintenance operatives
required by Whiting Landscape.
Must have some landscape maintenance experience, but enthusiasm and reliability is just as important. Need to be able to work as part of a team and use own initiative.
Good prospects for progression.
Pay will be competitive dependent on experience.
Please call Paul Hutchings 07973 804856.

electricians

LOCAL TESTING AND INSPECTION ELECTRICIANS required. Must have relevant City & Guilds qualifications (17th Edition & Testing). Please email cv to enquiries@neweygroup.co.uk or call 01384 566668

finance & accounting

ACCOUNTS & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT
Busy Sedgley based business has a vacancy for an individual who will have an excellent working knowledge of Sage Line 50 up to Trial Balance stage. Experience in payroll beneficial, must have excellent organisational and interpersonal skills. Salary negotiable dependent upon experience.
Please email your CV to mark@holdensbottling.co.uk use subject AAA CV

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320i M-SPORT 4 dr, 6sp, blue, 57 plate, FSH, 12 months MoT, good condition, £5,150 ono. W-ton 7916 61636 / 07543 237183.

BMW Z3 - 1.9
2001, finished in metallic silver, black interior and hood (electric) full history. Genuine 22,000 miles, new tyres, excellent condition, fully serviced, fully equipped. MoT.
£4,500.
01902 758833

CITROEN C1 VTR 2009, 59k, 3dr, £20, road tax, red, economical, MoT, smashing car, £2,490 ono. 07791 808779.

FIAT 500 Twin Air Lounge, 11 reg, 0.9 litre Turbo, red, 47k, £0 road tax, comprehensive insurance, top range edition £4,250 ono. 07718 341945.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 2008 Special Edition, 83k, metallic blue, MoT, alloys, excellent condition, looked after, £2,450 ono. 07475 396855.

FORD FOCUS 2.0GHIA 56reg 74,000 Miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, v6 air, long MoT, 5 doors, £1,599, 07879 403302.

HYUNDAI I10 1.2 ACTIVE
63 reg, met black, 18,900k, FSH, AC, all electric windows, fog, remote CL, rear parking sensors, £20 tax, 2.5 year balance of warranty, very good condition, private sale.
£4,950.
01952 728107.

MAZDA MX5 1600 CONVERTIBLE, 04 reg, 64,000 miles only, good condition, MoT, £2,795. Telephone 07864 842076.

MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Elegance, Auto, Estate, dark blue, MoT Oct 2, 2016, service history, £17,000. 01384 273177.

MINI COOPER S 2008, 125k, FSH, MoT, Blue, half leather, fully loaded, very clean, £3,995. 07596 439450.

VAUXHALL CORSA VXR 2007, blue, MoT all July, 25,500 miles, excellent condition, £5,750 ono. 01384 354109 or 07470 244100.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ESTATE
2011, 54k miles, grey metallic, electric windows, abs, air con, fsh, full MoT, central locking, cruise control, ps, diesel, rear park sensors, 4 new tyres.
£6,850 ono.
01902 664647.

VW FOX 09, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner, £2,495 ono. 01384 565 140 or 07761 091577.

VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI, midnight blue, FSH, 58 reg, full history, heated seats, Dab radio, great condition. £4,500 ono. 07734 441967.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 118 SE T reg, FSH, AC, alloys, heated seats, 93,000 miles, metallic blue, must be seen. £250 ono. 01746 761718.

CITROEN PICASSO AUTO 06, 65,000 miles, 12 months MoT, clean inside and out. £1,250 ono. 07855 946489.

CITROEN SAXO Furio, 1.4, 8 months MoT, blue, service history, 74,000 miles, new radiator and linkage, £575 ono. 07475 638786.

FIAT PUNTO 2004, 5-dr, 1 previous owner, 61,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 0785 09 07323 132859.

FORD MONDEO 2005, 1.8 hatchback, 88,000 miles, 12 months MoT, £795 ono. 07891 534950.

HONDA CIVIC 1.7 CDTI, MoT, 103,544 miles, blue, 3-dr, £W, alloys, CD player, £1,200 ono. Please call 07958 428949.

HONDA JAZZ 1350, 02 plate, FSH, full new exhaust system, 11 months MoT, light metallic green, good condition, £850. 07865 290473.

MAZDA 3 2TS 5dr hatch, Titanium Grey, e/w, CD, radio, A/C, alloys, ERM long life, £2,590. 01384 401209 / 07739 837137.

MAZDA 323i 1997, 7 months MoT, clean car, £300. 01902 674562.

PEUGEOT 206 HDI D Turbo, 1997cc, 2002, 5dr, hatchback, all old MoT's, All paperwork from new. £395. 0121 408 1754.

PEUGEOT 206 HDI D Turbo, 1997cc, 2002, 5dr, hatchback, all old MoT's, All paperwork from new. £495. 0121 408 1754.

RENAULT CLIO 53 reg, 12 months MoT, 1 lady owner, 5-dr, 95k miles, black, good car, needs slight attention. £575. 07540 474922.

ROVER 75 Tourer, 03 reg, FSH, one owner from new, genuine 61,000 miles, immaculate condition. £1,495. 07956 670563.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI, 1.2 2001, full MoT, service history, CD, PS, beautiful condition, £585. 0no. 01384 440258. 07835 337167.

VW GOLF 1.6 SE, 2002, part garaged, SH, 12 months MoT, new battery, red, excellent condition, 71k, £1,475 ono. 07374 282604.

motorbikes

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged / non runners. Cash paid. Peter All Bikes, 01902 312939 bikesallbikes@gmail.com

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
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for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
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CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

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BMA Est. Here 25 Years
2004 Vauxhall Corsa SXI 1.2 Silver, 1 owner £995
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Cars and People Carriers from £500
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We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
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classic cars

TRIUMPH TR7 CONVERTIBLE
MoT, silver blue mohair hood, check wntor, electronic ignition CD player, excellent condition, £2,500 ono. 07877 536948.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

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Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting From 5 Lessons £50
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Manual & Automatic
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10 Hours £89 Five Hours £50
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A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
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Ring for quotes on others!

spares/parts

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9

Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ALAN BLAIR PARKINS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 28 Foydards Road Tipton DY4 8AX, who died on 18/09/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ADCOCKS SOLICITORS LIMITED
27 Lombard Street Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 6DP

NORMAN BELL (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 112 Dudley Road Rowley Regis West Midlands B65 8PX, who died on 01/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY

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Looking for a professional male to a Degree Level who is attractive, genuine and caring, enjoys quiet nights in, outdoor life and holidays abroad.

Early 50's to mid 60's, who is caring, honest and respectable, must be willing to travel, for Friendship or more.

Genuine replies only, previous responders need not write again thank you.

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SINCERE, CARING, EASY GOING, LOVING MALE, 60
WLTW female for friendship, leading to LTR if possible.

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Brandhall pass up on chance to close gap

BRANDHALL were unable to capitalise on Norton Social A's lack of action in the Stourbridge Snooker League Premier Division.

With the leaders not playing, challengers Brandhall had the chance to close the gap, but were defeated 4-1 at Amblecote Inst A.

Hotshots SC A kept their challenge alive with a 4-1 win at Moor Pool & Snooker A. Hotshots' B, last season's First Division champions, lost 4-1 to Pockets SC A.

Kinver Const B played two matches in division one. The first, originally postponed after a power cut, saw them win 4-1 away to Moor Pool & Snooker C then, after falling 2-0 behind, they came back to beat their own C team.

Closest rivals Kingswinford Cons B slipped up 3-2 at Wombourne. The Cons' A team lost 4-1 to Amblecote Inst B.

Moor Pool & Snooker B's challenge faltered as they went down 3-2 to Kinver A, while Norton Social B went down 4-1 to Moor P & S's C team. Stourbridge Inst A took bragging rights, beating their own B team 3-2.

Stourbridge Old Edwardians have a seven-point lead at the top of division two following a 3-2 win at rivals Amblecote RBL A.

Premier Division: Moor Pool & Snooker A 1 Hotshots SC A 4; Amblecote Inst A 4 Brandhall Labour 1; Hotshots SC B 1 Pockets SC A 4; Pockets SC B 3 Baggeridge Social 2;

First division: Moor Pool & Snooker B 2 Kinver Const A 3; Kinver Const B 3 Kinver Const C 2; Stourbridge Inst A 3 Stourbridge Inst B 2; Norton Social B 3 Moor Pool & Snooker C 2; Wombourne 3 Kingswinford Cons B 2; Kingswinford Cons A 1 Amblecote Inst B 4; Moor Pool & Snooker C 1 Kinver Const B 4;

Second division: Kingswinford SC 1 Amblecote RBL B 4; Amblecote Inst C 5 Stourbridge Inst D 0; Kingswinford Cons D 2 Kingswinford Cons C 3; Amblecote RBL A 2 Stb Old Edwardians 3; Kinver Const D 3 Amblecote Institute D 2

Still chance to net tickets for Davis Cup tie

BIRMINGHAM'S Barclaycard Arena is finalising last minute plans for the so-called World Cup of Tennis, the Davis Cup.

The GB team will be returning to start the defence of the title against Japan in the World Group first round, from March 4-6.

This will be the first meeting between Great Britain and Japan since 1931.

Phil Mead, managing director of the Barclaycard Arena said: "It is with great pleasure we welcome Leon Smith and his side to the Barclaycard Arena.

"Our events and sales teams are working closely alongside The International Tennis Federation to deliver an exceptional opening round."

Tickets can still be bought at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Gordon plays weighting game



West Bromwich fighter Matt Gordon

WEST Bromwich's Matt Gordon is dealing with an unfamiliar weight problem for professional boxers coming up to fight night – he's struggling to put enough of it on!

Gordon, aged 31, undertakes his third outing in the heavyweight division at Walsall Town Hall next Friday. But having gone past his desired target, Gordon now plans to pile on the weight by piling high his plate before gobbling up a hat-trick of paid victories.

Extensive work with his fitness

coach Mark Richards and former pro footballer Justin Richards, now playing at part-timers Stourbridge, have paid off more than ever.

Former Mixed Martial Arts fighter Lukas Horak will have to match his hunger.

Gordon said: "I like to be around 16-and-a-half stone to fight, but I've been coming in just above 16st in my fights so far. I've been losing weight because I've upped the training, so I've had to up the calories, too." Top of the bill will see Halesowen's Len-

nox Clarke, 24, get back into title contention against Richard Horton.

The 'Undefeated' bill, promoted by Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing and Hatton, has eight unbeaten fighters on the card.

Hatton will lead Wednesbury's Sam Evans, Pauly Upton, Reuben Arrowsmith and Nathan Gorman into battle. Gordon's Sandwell cohort Manny Zaber, from Old Hill, tackles Liam Richards. Stoke's Kieron McLaren completes the card at welterweight.

Belt up – four titles on line in Sam bout

FOUR belts could be on the line when Stourbridge's Sam Eggington takes top billing against Bradley Skeete in Birmingham next month.

It was announced in mid-January that Eggington will take on Skeete in the headliner at the Genting Arena on Saturday March 5, writes **Craig Birch**.

"The Savage" defends his British and Commonwealth welterweight titles against his mandatory challenger, on a Matchroom Boxing show live on Sky Sports.

And Eggington's WBC International Silver belt, along with Skeete's WBO European crown, could also be put up-for-grabs.

The contest will cross the promoters' divide, as Londoner Skeete, managed by Frank Warren, competes on a Matchroom show after Eddie Hearn won the purse bids.

It will now also be put to the British Boxing Board of Control that the WBC and WBO straps be involved in the bout, which was actually called for by Warren's representative Andy Ayling.

Eggington is aware the prospect of a Lonsdale belt fight against Frankie Gavin later in the year is also being risked. The 21-year-old said: "Bradley's not daft, he's a hard opponent, but I can't see him lasting the distance with me.

Mandatory

"He'll have to work hard for everything he gets against me. If I do what I need to, I will come out with the win and that will be my mandatory out of the way. After that, I want to go and win the belt outright."

Skeete's only pro defeat came at the hands of Gavin in November 2014, when both were under the Warren banner.

He said: "These are the fights I want to be in, at these big arenas headlining. I've come up short before, but I won't this time."

Essington's Ben Wilkes will undertake his step up elsewhere on the card and is the underdog against the all-action Cello Renda, in an eliminator for the English middleweight title.

Wilkes has nine wins from 10 from what has been a stop-start pro career since turning pro in 2009, and he's adamant he's got the skills to upset the form book. He said: "It's a big opportunity for me and he's going to get a shock."



Sam Eggington and challenger Bradley Skeete face up to their challenge in Birmingham

The 29-year-old spent nearly five years out of the ring after a third round TKO defeat to Janis Cernauskis.

Another major domestic title fight and two clashes for Midlands belts also appear, with both Yafai brothers in action. British champion Kal will tackle Moises Flores in an official 12-round eliminator for Kohei Kono's WBA super flyweight title. Younger sibling Gamal goes after his first domestic crown, challeng-

ing for Bobby Jenkinson's newly-won Commonwealth super bantamweight strap. A Battle of Birmingham will come at lightweight, as Michael Rooney and Marcus Ffrench meet for the vacant strap, while new Midlands titlist Karl Wiggins defends at welter for the first time against Derby's Ryan Fields.

Tickets are priced at £40, £60 and £100 from www.theticketfactory.com. VIP upgrades, at £150, can be bought exclusively at www.matchroomboxing.com

Chess club beats rivals to reach cup final

STOURBRIDGE are into the Humphreys Cup final after a 2½-1½ win at home to Halesowen. The competition is for players graded under 130.

SCC were outgraded on every board, but not by much.

First to finish was Colin Woodall with a draw by repetition. Then the Halesowen board one blundered and immediately resigned giving the win to Jeremy Humphries. This meant only a draw was needed from one of the remaining two boards. In the end both games were drawn.

The Birmingham league division 3 team are in a very tight relegation battle along with five others. They faced Redditch and drew the match.

Stourbridge's four remaining matches are against other relegation candidates so there is still a good chance they will stay up.

Wednesday night was busy in the Birmingham league with Stourbridge's division 1 and 4 teams both playing and fighting relegation. The division one team self-destructed against title chasing Sutton Coldfield. Only the top 2 boards Keith Arkell and Sabrina Chevannes managed to draw and the remaining four players all lost.

The division 4 team's relegation fight looked even more difficult having scored just one point in eight matches and being three points adrift of safety with three matches remaining. Surprisingly, they got their first win of the season, beating Redditch 4-2, which keeps Stourbridge's hopes alive.

Stourbridge's four youngsters lost at Warley Quinbourne in Wolverhampton division 4 but Dan Arkell continued his good form.

Unwelcome Guest denies Tivi a victory

Goole AFC 2 Tividale FC2

TIVIDALE, having lost two experienced players in midweek, returned from the long trip to Goole with a share of the spoils – after conceding a last-gasp equaliser.

Defender Sam Brooks and forward Mark Danks left for Sutton Coldfield and Romulus respectively. Tivi were also without suspended full back Lewis Wright, but came up with a dogged performance and were seconds away from winning.

Against the run of play Tividale took the lead on 18 minutes through Demetri Brown.

The home side equalised on 22 through Aaron Moxam, but with seven minutes to go Tividale regained the lead through Chris Sterling. Deep into added time Goole snatched a point as Nick Guest levelled.

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Lions tamed as Old Hales stay in hunt

Old Hales 13 Peterborough Lions 5
HALES kept in touch for the play-offs after defeating their opponents from Peterborough in a rearranged fixture.

A pitch inspection by both sides and the referee was tough and go but the first team pitch was deemed playable.

Hales had driving wind and rain at their backs in the first half and soon took advantage, going 7-0 up thanks to a penalty try, converted by full-back Chris Hooper.

The terrible weather conditions didn't help handling, but both sides should be congratulated for running the ball on many occasions. A Hooper penalty stretched Hales lead to half-time.

The half time break gave some respite with changed shirts for the home team. The rain continued as the crowd bundled together in the stand to share some protection.

Second row Loz Breese had to leave the field with a neck injury and was replaced by Owen Jones. He was then injured, shifting Ben Barkley into the pack and Jamie Keen coming into the backs with no replacements left.

The visitors seemed destined to score but could not overpower the Hales defence, until with two minutes they scored a well-worked try, unconverted.

However, more pressure in the dying minute saw the visitors penalised in front of the posts 30 metres out. Hooper converted for the final score with Hales coming out as worthy winners.

Director of rugby Gary Cox said: "This was never going to be a classic open running game in these conditions.

"The lads in defence were excellent to a man and have kept us in the hunt for the play-offs."

Old Hales travel to Sutton Coldfield on Saturday for a league fixture. Kick off 2.15pm.

Glassboys aiming to make last last eight of FA Trophy

STOURBRIDGE were this week aiming to make the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy. They were due to face Nantwich Town on Tuesday night in a rearranged fixture after Saturday's original tie was called off.

The teams in opposition are the competition's lowest-ranked sides. In the last eight, the winners will face Dover Athletic – who Stourbridge beat in the first round of the FA Cup in November – or Guiseley. They were replaying on Tuesday.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett said his side was refusing to get carried away but admitted it was nice to be in the draw despite the weekend game being off.

He said: "We will have pretty much the same squad and same set up we had for Saturday before it was called off. Realistically we've just got to take each game as it comes but we're in the last 16 now and we know at least one team from our league will be the quarter-finals.

"The cup run has created a lot of interest. When you're in the FA Cup or FA Trophy at this stage of the season it can never be seen as a distraction."

Golf captain in fundraising drive



Bob Grindley, green jacket, with club members

STOURBRIDGE Golf Club's newly-appointed captain has pledged to take a swing at fundraising for Birmingham Children's Hospital charity to say thank you to the hospital's cardiac unit.

Bob Grindley, the club's Gentleman Captain, has selected Birmingham Children's Hospital as the club's charity of the year after both his children received life-saving heart surgery at the hospital. For the next two years, Bob and the club will raise as much as they can.

The 62-year-old father-of-two, whose children are now grown-up and enjoying full and active lives, said: "My wife Berni and I are extremely

Golf

grateful for everything the hospital has done for our family."

Daughter Donna, now 31, was the first to be admitted at four-years old. She was born with a hole in her heart and required an operation. At 16, an unusual sound in son Russell's heartbeat was identified as a leaking aortic valve. He is now 33.

Nancy Lillington, regional fundraiser at Birmingham Children's Hospital charity, said: "The money Bob hopes to raise over the next two years will make a huge difference."

STOUR'S POOR RUN CONTINUES

Broadstreet 19 Stourbridge 12

IN a game played in a howling gale Stour were unable to shake off their poor run of form and slumped to their third successive defeat.

By dint of a losing bonus point and having played all their scheduled matches they ironically found themselves moving up to second place in the National 2N table, but are only a point ahead of others who now face a congested late-season campaign with as many as four games to reschedule.

Playing into the elements Stour received the kick off and immediately shipped a three-point deficit, Broadstreet outside half Lee Chapman bisecting the uprights when Stour failed to clear out the tackle area and were penalised.

Only 11 minutes in though, Stour took the lead with a Joe Carpenter try converted by full-back Tom Mitchell.

The restart kick was fumbled though, a penalty award for offside followed and Chapman's boot landed another three points.

Deficit

Then, when Broadstreet worked their way downfield, the lead changed hands courtesy of Chapman's boot when Stour were penalised.

It appeared Stour had weathered the storm with just a two-point deficit and the wind advantage to come, but Broadstreet tore back from the restart. A maul was driven into the Stour half and the ball worked right where some flimsy defending shipped a try to full-back Andrew Murray.

Both sides started to struggle to hold on to the ball for any protracted period of play, but Stour's steady concession of penalties eventually conceded a line-out just five metres from their line. Broadstreet reduced the numbers in the line, Stour failed to readjust quickly and conceded a soft try when the throw found no.8 Jack Gibbons who breezed through the undefended tail.

Stour's pack dug deep and forced a penalty from Broadstreet's scrum, a quick tap and a set of drives seeing second row Robbie Hurrell crash over with five minutes to go.

On Saturday, Stourbridge host National 2N basement side Huddersfield, 3pm ko.



Stourbridge's Nigel Mukarati takes the ball into contact at Broadstreet

Get in the swim with club event

BLACK Country Triathletes are holding an aquathlon next month for those wishing to have a go at swimming and running in one event.

It is open to all abilities and takes place on March 12.

The adult event is new in the race series for this year and involves a 400m swim in Wombourne Leisure Centre pool

before a 5k run along the Wombourne railway walk and back.

Various distances apply to the junior races but all involve a pool swim, 50m for eight-year-olds up to 400m for 15 & 16 year olds, and a fully supervised run either on the playing fields or along the railway walk and back.

Run distances are between

600m and 4000m depending on age.

Registration opens at noon with the adult race starting at 1.30pm followed by the junior races from 2.30pm.

Full details can be found at www.blackcountrytriathletes.com and online entry is via www.entrycentral.com. Entries must be received by March 5.

Inexperience shows for lower order

Oldswinford (114-5) beat Enville B (68-3) by 46 runs

ENVILLE 'B' elected to bowl against a young Oldswinford side.

Harry Stanier opened the innings with Owen Williams and started well against an inexperienced Enville bowling attack, captain Stanier especially scoring freely and retiring within the first three overs.

Enville took their first wicket at 66 with Jono Howells stumping Dan Friel off Nick Hinsley. Oldswinford maintained the run rate while trying to get their captain back to the crease. On his return he continued his good form being run out for 39 in the last over.

Howells (25 no) and Hinsley set about Enville's reply in positive fashion until the latter was brilliantly caught one-handed by Mark Watts, who repeated the feat the very next ball taking the wicket of Tom Davies. After Howells had retired, the inexperience of the lower order began to show as they struggled to score runs and failed to get Howells back to the crease.

Pedmore (112-2) beat Swindon (95-4) by 17 runs

PEDMORE elected to bat and openers Dave Skelding and Matt Porter (25 no) looked to continue their free-scoring form.

They started well but lost Skelding run out for 10 in the fourth over. Old head James Burgoyne joined Porter and took up the mantle, out-scored him and retired on 28. Porter soon followed, the remaining batsmen all contributed cameo innings.

In reply, Swindon lost both openers in three overs with a total at 17-2. Lee Passmore and Matt Fisher set about trying to chase down the Pedmore score but on their retirements the run rate fell and when later reunited at the crease, the task proved too much.

Benefit dinner for Pears club skipper

COMPANIES are raising their profile at a gala dinner in aid of a benefit year awarded to Worcestershire County Cricket Club captain Daryl Mitchell.

Craddock's Brewery, Stourbridge, are among the sponsors for the dinner, at the county's New Road headquarters on February 26. It marks the start of a year-long programme of events dedicated to 'Mitch's Benefit 2016'.

Guest speaker, Ashes-winning hero and former Worcestershire player, Simon Jones will officially launch the benefit season. The evening is hosted by BBC Hereford and Worcester's David Bradley.

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